MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 FEBRUARY 1983

Israel

The newly published report of the inquiry commission into the Beirut massacre makes no recommendations regarding Prime Minister Menahem Begin but suggests that Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon draw "personal conclusions from the flaws found in the execution of his tasks" and that if necessary the prime minister should consider whether to use his powers to "dismiss a minister," according to excerpts of the report broadcast by IDF Radio. The report also found Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan guilty of blunders but made no recommendation about this because of his impending retirement. It called for the dismissal of IDF intelligence chief Major General Yehoshu'a Sagi, recommended that the paratroop division commander be restricted from holding an IDF command for 3 years but made no recommendations about the foreign minister, the chief of Mosad, and the commander of the Northern Command.

Despite the commission's statement that no recommendations are necessary regarding Prime Minister Begin, the report criticizes Begin for being "indifferent" toward the massacres and it also criticizes and reprimands Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Jerusalem radio reported.

Noting that the Cabinet will meet on 8 February to discuss the commission's findings, the radio disclosed that Sharon "is not inclined to resign" despite attempts by various ministers to persuade him to resign as defense minister but remain in the Cabinet and retain his position on the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil told the Cabinet that Israel is demanding "impossible" conditions which Lebanon is not ready to accept or grant, Beirut radio reported. Earlier, after the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks in Khaldah, the Information Ministry announced in a statement broadcast by the radio that the three subcommittees which met during the day would resume their discussions at Khaldah on 8 February. According to Jerusalem radio, the military subcommittee achieved "great progress" and began to draft an agreement, although there is still disagreement about warning stations, UNIFIL, and the guarding of refugee camps.

Meanwhile, the IDF commander for the 'Alayh area announced at a press conference in Khaldah that the IDF has succeeded in concluding a cease-fire agreement between the Druze and Christians in the Ash-Shuf region, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Asserting that roads will be reopened and weapons withdrawn, he warned that if the agreement is not carried out the IDF will intervene directly. He said the IDF has no objection to the entry of the Lebanese Army and the multinational force into the Ash-Shuf. The cease-fire announcement came after the Lebanese delegation at Khaldah had voiced concern about the IDF's failure to maintain security in the Ash-Shuf area, Beirut radio noted.

Clashes subsequently resumed south of 'Alayh despite the cease-fire announcement, Beirut radio reported. However, Jerusalem radio said the area was calm by nightfall. In a separate development, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that the Israelis and Syrians continued to reinforce their positions in the Al-Biqa' valley.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Jordan's King Husayn to discuss the future relationship between the PLO and Jordan, Amman television reported. 'Arafat also met with Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz, according to Amman radio and the Jordanian paper SAWT ASH-SHA'B. In another development the PLO-Jordanian committee began meeting in Amman under the chairmanship of 'Arafat and Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran, INA reported citing an informed PLO source. The source said the meeting will be "extremely important" and added that all topics discussed will be submitted to the 14 February PNC session for endorsement.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has warned Tehran's leaders to learn from their bitter experience in the Ash-Shib region and declared that if the Iranians again choose the road of expansion and aggression they will find "Iraqi fire" waiting for them, INA reported citing Husayn's 8 February comment on the Iranian offensive. Iraqi forces "crushed" the Iranian offensive in Ash-Shib and killed 6,894 Iranians, according to a military communique carried by INA. The communique said that Iraqi fighter planes and helicopters carried out 129 combat missions against the Iranian forces and returned safely to base after inflicting heavy losses. INA also reported that "hundreds" of Iranian POW's have arrived in Al-'Amarah. Meanwhile, Iranian forces "liberated" 250 square km of territory from Iraq, including border posts, according to an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. The radio also appealed for ambulances, bandages, warm clothes and food to be donated by Iranian citizens for distribution at the front. Tehran radio's Arabic service called for Saddam Husayn's death and urged Iraqi citizens to provide weapons and protection for the Iraqi "mujahidin" to enable them to strike at Husayn's regime. In another development Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi castigated France for helping Iraq and said that France will suffer immensely after Husayn's "certain fall" as this will block any future French attempts to infiltrate the region, IRNA reported. The prime minister stated that the Iranian offensive will show that no one can harness the "great holy fire" set on the region's tyrants, IRNA added.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz called on the Arab League, the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligend Movement to "assume their responsibilities" toward the Iranian aggression, which is a "flagrant violation" of the resolutions passed by these organizations, according to INA. Meanwhile, Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Jordanian King Husayn, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak telephoned Saddam Husayn and stressed their countries' support for Iraq in defense of its land and sovereignty, INA noted.

Iraq

Opposition Front -- Eighteen Iraqi opposition groups including the Communist Party and Idris al-Barzani's Democratic Party of Kurdistan issued a statement in Tripoli, Libya, announcing their decision to establish a national front to overthrow the Saddam Husayn regime and set up a "democratic, popular, and unionist" system, JANA and Tripoli radio reported. Their meeting was linked to the recent conference in Tripoli of representatives of 135 Arab opposition groups, JANA noted.

Nuclear Reactor -- Canadian officials who recently visited the country disclosed that Iraq has increased its efforts to rebuild its nuclear reactor, the Israeli daily HA'ARETZ reported. The reactor site looks like "an enormous mountain," the Canadians said, with major antiaircraft defenses deployed in the area.

Iran

Iranian papers confirmed reports on the arrests of a number of persons accused of spying for the Soviet Union, according to IRNA. ETTELA'AT reported that the Tudeh Party's general secretary and ideologist are thought to be among those arrested, IRNA noted.

PDRY

An Iranian Foreign Ministry delegation arrived in the PDRY for talks on bilateral relations, ADEN radio reported. In a statement to ANA, an Iranian official said he will convey a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad on bilateral relations and Iran's position in the forthcoming nonaligned conference, the radio added.

Afghanistan

Defense Minister Major General Abdol Qader met with his Soviet counterpart Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov in Moscow on 5 February, according to Moscow television. The television report added that questions of mutual interest were discussed during the friendly conversation.

Morocco

A Moroccan official accused French media and "certain sectors" in the ruling French Socialist Party of launching an information campaign against Morocco in order to undermine President Francois Mitterrand's recent efforts to improve bilateral relations, KUNA reported.

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PLO OFFICIAL DENIES CONTACTS WITH EGYPT CEASE

NC062300 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA) -- PLO Executive Committee member Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani has denied recent reports that contacts between the PLO and Egypt have stopped. He said there has been a decision to leave the issue of contacts to Yasir 'Arafat, who actually sent a message to President Mubarak during his visit to Canada.

In a statement to the weekly MAY published tomorrow, Monday, the Palestinian official praised Egyptian-Palestinian relations, saying they entered a new important stage following the invasion of Lebanon and achieved positive steps in confronting the aggression and promoting the Arab stand despite Israel's attempt to isolate Egypt from the Arab nation. He said Egyptian-Palestinian contacts have achieved a great deal. These contacts aimed at making political moves on the international level to influence the United States, which during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon adopted a stand that greatly supported Israel.

Ad-Dajani added: The contacts that were held with Egypt influenced the U.S. position. In this respect, he referred to President Mubarak's messages to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and to the Egyptian delegation which went to the United States during the battles in Lebanon as well as the joint Egyptian-French moves which influenced U.S. policy and led to the submission of President Reagan's initiative on 1 September.

Dr ad-Dajani praised the Egyptian papers' support for the PLO. He also praised the Arab information stand during the battle of Beirut. These media highlighted the reality of the flagrant Israel aggression. He affirm that the PNC will discuss the issue of Egyptian-Palestinian relations and that, from a study of all that the contacts with Egypt achieved in the past months, it may give a new boost to relations between the two sides. He said the vast majority of our people are proceeding toward a clear goal represented by cooperation between Egypt and the Palestinian people. Ad-Dajani pointed out that, whatever the differences in interpretation between Egypt and the Palestinians, our destiny is the same. Necessity requires that we return to work together and bypass all the difficulties and obstacles resulting from the past 4 years. We can expect this to happen in the next few months.

On the impact of the results of President Mubarak's recent visit to the United States on a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Ad-Dajani praised the efforts made by the Egyptian leadership to explain the facts to the United States with the aim of making it shoulder full responsibility for remedying conditions which it participated in creating and of conveying the PLO stands faithfully.

KUNA: OFFICIAL CALLS FOR ELECTION OF PLO CHAIRMAN

LD072119 Kuwait KUNA in English 1637 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 7 (KUNA) -- A Palestinian official called Monday for the election of the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee according to a definitive political programme rather than by the customary unanimity reflected by mere applause.

In an article, just one week prior to the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers on February 14, published here today by AL-ANBA' paper, the director of the PLO office in Beirut, Shafiq al-Hut criticised the former procedure of clapping Yasir 'Arafat's chairmanship of the organisation as unchallenged leader. Al-Hut said that the Beirut experience which claimed 72,000 persons either dead, wounded or missing necessitated the emergence of new leaders and the adoption of new means of struggle.

The official raised a number of disciplinary and procedural issues to be followed during the PNC meeting such as attendance of members [words indistinct] the council's sessions, appointment of an official spokesman for the conference to brief the press on deliberations and decisions of the council and recording of the full minutes of the meetings.

Al-Hut said we should care for all Palestinian (?nationals) whether inside the occupied land, in [word indistinct] countries or (?overseas), such as in the U.S., [word indistinct] or Australia, so that the organisation can really represent the Palestinian people.

In conclusion, the official suggested that the PNC should give the elected PLO chairman freer choice in selecting members of the Executive Committee who will help him in implementing his political manifesto.

YASIR 'ARAFAT CONFERS WITH OFFICIALS IN AMMAN

Meets Walid Junblatt

JN072121 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese National Movement, who is visiting Jordan this evening.

The two sides discussed the situation in Lebanon in particular and in the Arab arena in general and current developments in the region. They also discussed the escalation of the situation by the Phalangist forces in Ash-Shuf and the obstacles facing the Lebanese authorities as a result of the pressures of Israeli military rule. The two stressed the need to take the steps necessary to achieve a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory.

The meeting was attended by several ranking Palestinian figures.

PNC Members in Jordan

JN080806 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] At the guest palace yesterday evening, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, met with the PNC members residing in Jordan. 'Arafat acquainted the PNC members with the political situation the area is currently experiencing. He explained to them the developments that have emerged following his visits to a number of Arab and foreign countries.

The PNC members reaffirmed their support for the political move being initiated by the Palestinian leadership led by 'Arafat. They also stressed the importance of Palestinian national unity during the upcoming PNC meeting.

The PNC members voiced their rejection and denunciation of all attempts to undermine the unity and independence of the Palestinian national decision, urging all members torender the 16th PNC session a success.

Confers With Egypt's Al-Baz

JN080707 Amman SAWT ASH-SAH'B in Arabic 8 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources sat that Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, met yesterday with Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's political office and first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. The discussion during the meeting focused on a number of issues related to the latest developments in the Palestinian and Arab situation.

SAN'A' VOP: FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETS IN KUWAIT

GF071930 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] The Central Committee of the Palestinian national liberation movement Fatah held a meeting under the chairmanship of Brother Abu'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, in Kuwait last night.

The conferees discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian arena, the results of the contacts made to strengthen the Palestinian struggle on all levels, and the development of future efforts in the phase after Beirut in addition to the agenda of the upcoming conference of the PNC.

A number of Fatah leaders arrived in Kuwait last night including Brothers Abu Jihad [Khilil al-Wazir], Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], and Abu al-Hawl.

Khalil al-Wazir Comment

GF071920 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces, has affirmed that the revolution will not stop its fight and armed struggle until victory. Regarding the meetings of the Fatah Central Committee in Kuwait, Brother Abu Jihad said that the committee will discuss the upcoming convention of the PNC and the future of relations with Syria and Jordan in light of the difficult circumstances that the Palestinian revolution is experiencing, in addition to the upcoming visit by Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Moscow.

PARLIAMENTARY UNION COUNCIL TO MEET IN RABAT

LD072343 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] The meetings of the 13th Arab Parliamentary Union council begins in Rabat tomorrow. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Saidi Mohamed will preside over the opening session tomorrow morning.

The agenda of the 13th Arab Parliamentary Union council, which continues through 10 February, comprises a number of important topics, including the current Arab situation in light of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Arab governmental missions in light of the Arab Fes summit conference resolutions, the committee for resolving Arab disputes, the development of the dialogue among world governmental groups, the current year's plan of action, and Spain's occupation of Ceuta and Melilla.

Three committees will emerge from the conference: the political committee, the ways and means committee and the parliamentarian committee.

BRIEFS

PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN JORDAN — The PLO has officially announced the appointment of (Izzat Farid), (Abu ar-Rab), and its representative and chief of its bureau in Jordan, to succeed 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, who will assume other tasks at the organization's Political Department. It has been learned from Amman that the PLO has informed Jordanian official quarters and heads of the diplomatic missions in Jordan of this decision. [Text] [Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Feb 83 LD]

KUNA: OAPEC OFFICIAL ATTACKS OIL-PRODUCING STATES

LD062019 Kuwait KUNA in English 1714 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 6 (KUNA) -- An OAPEC official Sunday launched a vigorous attack against oil-producing states which he blamed for the problems and crises lived through ever since the early '70's because of their failure to adopt a stable policy for the prices of their crdue supported by reasonable production. In a lecture today on energy policies and prices, the assistant secretary-general of OAPEC, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Wattari, said that a glance at the economic and policy changes undergone will show that countries of OPEC had failed even to adopt a standard pricing policy, supported by an appropriate production level, and had thus lived through chaotic problems and crises since the early seventies and until today.

The official was addressing a symposium here organized by OAPEC on fundamentals of oil and gas industries which opened January 15 and will end at the middle of this month.

Al-Wattari noted that at a time when industrial countries are reducing their dependence on oil, OPEC states are increasing their dependence on the crude as energy source (94 percent) and vital export commodity while refusing, at the same time, even to work towards protecting prices against collapse or start developing alternate sources.

The official recalled that after assuming sovereignty over their natural resources, OPEC states came in touch with the intricacies of energy problems at the world level but had unfortunately failed to appraise the real magnitude of these problems nor forecast their future impact.

As a result, Al-Wattari went on, industrial countries drived the lesson and adopted definitive energy policies, realizing tangible results in this concern. In contrast, "we cannot say that we have energy polices in the real sense," the official said, adding that OAPEC has suggested during the first and second Arab energy conferences the adoption of Arab and national oil policies and establishment of competent frameworks to be responsible for drawing and follow-up of such policies.

Al-Wattari warned that OAPEC countries were racing against time in devising such programmes as use and production of oil and gas in accordance with Arab development requirements, rejecting the role of producer imposed on them and finding alternate sources of energy after the nuclear option and the increased use of solar energy.

The official cited the lack of a technological base as one of the main reasons for the continued dependence on oil and urged OAPEC states to stop linking their developing programmes to the "easy" oil-returns.

KUWAIT, SAUDI OIL MINISTERS HOLD 'SECRET' MEETING

LD051157 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1028 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Feb (KUNA) -- A Kuwaiti paper reports that a secret meeting was held between Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah and the minister of petroleum and mineral resources of Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, last Tuesday in Dhahran.

The Kuwaiti daily AS-SIYASAH today reports that during the short time Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah spent in Saudi Arabia last Tuesday, he met with the Saudi minister, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani.

The paper hints that the meeting was connected with the present situation concerning OPEC. It adds that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council, are dealing with the questions of prices and output volumes within the results of a study made before last December's oil ministers meeting in Bahrain.

AS-SIYASAH points out that the two ministers wanted to keep the meeting a secret.

'Secret' Talks Denied

LD061904 Kuwait KUNA in English 1609 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 6 (KUNA) -- Reports that Kuwait oil minister had been secretly meeting with his Saudi counterpart are unfounded, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said Sunday.

Kuwait's cooperation with other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council is always conducted in an open manner, the state minister said, adding such communications are channelled either through direct confrontation or by the exchange of letters and telephone calls.

Earlier press reports said that Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah was holding secret talks in Saudi Arabia with Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani on oil issues.

Kuwait's oil policy is clearly towards supporting the official price and all its activities in this respect are conducted through OPEC, he added.

Commenting on the destruction of the Palestine Research Center premises in Beirut, Husayn said the Israeli occupation is continuously encouraging internal Arab differences.

Israel's hatred to the Palestine Liberation Organization leads them to commit more and more crimes in which innocent victimes are killed, Husayn said.

Asked on Iranian provocations against the region, Husayn said the move is regrettable. Kuwait was and will continue to exert efforts for ending the current war, he said.

SAUDI ARABIA

YAR PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN JIDDA 6 FEBRUARY

LD061228 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Jidda, 6 Feb (SPA) -- His Excellency President Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the YAR arrived in Jidda at 1400 today.

His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz headed those who were at the airport to receive his excellency.

His excellency the president of Yemen is accompanied by a delegation which includes Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani; Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, and a number of senior officials of the YAR.

Statement on Arrival

LD061522 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Jidda, 6 Feb (SPA) -- His Excellency Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, stressed that his current visit to the Kingdom is taking place within the framework of efforts to develop and strengthen fraternal relations between the two sister countries. He stated that the bonds of kinship, neighborhood, and links of faith and history call upon us to exchange meetings with our brothers in the Kingdom headed by my brother His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in a statement to SPA on his arrival to visit the Kingdom, described his visit as a great opportunity for consultations and exchanges of views with his Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz about relations between the two sister countries and the means to develop mutual cooperation and foster deep relations between the two fraternal peoples.

He said he will be discussing with his majesty current Arab conditions, the means to restore Arab solidarity in the light of the Fes summit conference resolutions, the efforts and endeavors exerted by the Kingdom to create a friendly atmosphere in the Gulf region, and to end the Iraq-Iran war in order to spare the blood of the two Muslim peoples in Iraq and Iran, to save their resources for challenging the Israeli enemy and their great role in strengthening the Palestinian cause, and to devote all their abilities and international efforts for the service of the causes of the Arab and Islamic nation.

He praised the efforts exerted by the Kingdom to restore Arab solidarity, saying that these efforts coincide with the Yemeni working papers' call presented to the Arab nation in [word indistinct].

He stressed that this meeting is of special importance while the Arab and Islamic nation is being exposed to numerous plots by the rancourous forces headed by the Zionist entity, which continues its aggression on Arab territories in Palestine and Lebanon. This importance also stems from the work to bolster the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their usurped rights under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The Yemeni president praised the posture adopted by the Kingdom toward his country during the tribulations it was exposed to as a result of the earthquake. He expressed his gratitude for this posture which took a positive role in rescuing and giving refuge to those harmed by the earthquake.

Opening of Saudi-YAR Talks

LD062114 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Saudi-Yemeni talks began at 2200 at the royal court in Jidda under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen.

The talks were attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; and Tirad al-Harithi; the Kingdom's ambassador to Yemen. Present on the Yemeni side were: Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani; Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr; and Yemeni Ambassador to the Kingdom Ahmad al-Mihanni.

Saudi-YAR Communique

LD071956 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Feb 83

["Text" of joint Saudi-YAR communique on visit of YAR President 'Ali Abdallah Salih to Saudi Arabia issued on 7 February 1983]

[Text] At the invitation of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, paid a fraternal visit to the Kingdom 6-7 February 1983 at the head of a high-ranking official delegation.

His excellency the president and the accompanying delegation were accorded a great official and popular welcome. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, led those welcoming the guests. Also, a number of princes and ministers and noblemen were present. This welcome reflected the depth of the fraternal relations and close ties between the two fraternal peoples.

Talks between the two sides were held under the chairmanship of His Excellency Colonel 'Abdallah Salih and His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Taking part in the talks on the Yemeni side were His Excellency Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress; His Excellency Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, member of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress; and Ahmad 'Ali al-Muhayni, YAR Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On the Saudi side were His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy Prime minister; minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; and Shaykh Tirad al-Harithi, the Saudi Ambassador to the YAR.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of fraternal spirit which expresses the depth of the Arab and Islamic ties between the two governments and peoples. Common issues at the level of the strong bilateral relations between them were reviewed. They expressed deep satisfaction at the excellent relations between the two sister countries. They underlined their constant determination to promote and consolidate these relations in the interests of the Saudi people and the sister Yemeni people.

The visit of His Excellency Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the Kingdom comes in the wake of the painful results of the earthquake which befell some parts of sister Yemen 13 December 1982, causing huge losses in both lives and property. The Saudi side was informed of the details of those losses and the efforts exerted by the YAR Government in order to rebuild the stricken areas in the light of the reports and studies prepared by the international committees. The Yemeni side expressed profound thanks and gratitude to his majesty's government for the unlimited support which the Kingdom has given to the earthquake victims and also for opening the door for the Saudi citizens to donate to help these victims.

This is highly appreciated by the Yemeni people. The Saudi side expressed to his excellency the president and his delegation its deep sorrow and pain at this painful tragedy, paying tribute to the efforts which are being exerted by the YAR Government. It also stressed determination to continue to work in order to relieve the pain of the victims through contributing to rebuilding the affected area. The Saudi side is fully convinced of the importance of cooperation in the Arab, Islamic, and international efforts in order to rebuild the villages and towns which have been destroyed and in order to assist the YAR Government to quickly put an end to the effects of the earthquake.

The two sides reviewed the common issues concerning the Arab nation. Their viewpoints on these issues are identical. They stressed the importance of maintaining the unity of the Palestinian revolution units and the cohesion of the Palestinian resistance and also of supporting it materially and morally, away from any non-Palestinian influences, this being the basis of resolving the Palestinian issue in accordance with the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences on the issue which stipulated granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and the right to set up their state on the Palestinian territory under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. The two sides expressed anxiety over Israel's procrastination in withdrawing its invading forces from all territories in Lebanon unconditionally. They underlined the importance of the unity of Lebanon, of respecting its sovereignty, and the safety of its territory. They appealed to the Lebanese people to make a serious contribution, together with their government, to restoring security and stability to Lebanon.

The two sides also reviewed the Iraq-Iran war and its negative developments. They expressed satisfaction at the fact that the Iraqi Government has responded to the Muslim and international mediation and proposals to end this war which is causing great losses not only to the Iraqi and Iranian people but also to the Arab and Muslim nations' abilities to mobilize and direct their resources toward confronting the common enemy. They appealed to Iran to respond to those good international mediations and efforts. The two sides expressed determination to continue their good efforts in order to restore Arab solidarity and unity of ranks in the interest of the causes of the Arab and Muslim nations.

During its visit to the Kingdom, the Yemeni side saw the aspects of development and progress being made in the Kingdom in various fields. It expressed its great pleasure, wishing the fraternal Saudi people every progress and prosperity. His Excellency Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih extended an invitation to his brother His Excellency King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to visit his second homeland, the YAR. His majesty accepted the invitation. Its date is to be fixed later.

YAR President Departs

LD070308 Riyadh SPA in English 2000 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Sana, Feb 7 (SPA) -- President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih flew home today from a two-day official visit to Jidda, expressing satisfaction with talks he had with King Fahd and other Saudi leaders on bilateral relations and Arab and international questions.

In a press statement on returning here, President Salih who was accompanied on the visit visit by a high-ranking delegation, said Saudi leaders showed full understanding and response concerning subjects raised at the discussion.

"This reflects the strong and deep ties linking the two countries and the identity of views they share on developments in the region and ways of dealing with them," he added.

President Salih said the positive outcome of the visit would be beneficial to the two brotherly peoples and the Arab and Islamic nation as well as strengthen the fruitful cooperation between Saudi Arabia and North Yemen. It will also help in the two countries' efforts to reestablish Arab solidarity and unity and mobilise all resources to face dangers and challenges confronting the Arab nation, he added.

The North Yemeni leader also said the talks concentrated on the Iraq-Iran war and the need for putting an end to it and consolidating security and stability in the region. He added that the discussions gave special attention to the Palestine cause and the need for backing the struggle of the Palestinian people to recover their legitimate rights.

Views were exchanged on all Arab and international developments and on coordinating the Arab stand at the forthcoming non-aligned summit in the interest of the Arab nation's strategic aims, the president said.

In a statement to SPA before leaving Jidda, President Salih said Saudi Arabia and North Yemen shared identical views on the "gravity of events taking place on Arab territory, especially the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation." He affirmed that the only way to deal with the situation was through comprehensive Arab cooperation based on strong foundations and resolutions adopted at the Fes summit, held in Morocco in September.

The Yemeni leader said the resolutions illustrated the "practical Arab stand on the current phase through which the Arab nation is passing."

President Salih said his visit to the Kingdom provided a good chance to exchange views on current efforts to convene the seventh non-aligned summit, due to take place in India next month, and the importance attached by the two states to it, especially in the current international situation. The North Yemeni president went on to say that his visit to the Kingdom served as a good opportunity to meet King Fahd and other Saudi leaders to discuss questions of mutual interest, headed by the fraternal ties and continuing cooperation between the two countries. He said the visit scored a big success as far as bilateral ties were concerned and the positive effect would reflect on the joint interests of the two brotherly peoples.

King Fahd and other leaders expressed full understanding of the difficult circumstances through which North Yemen was passing following the devastating earthquake and total readiness to join in reconstructing stricken areas, he added.

The delegation which accompanied President Salih on the Saudi trip included Premier Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr.

YAR

PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA 7 FEB

GF071932 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived in San'a' today after an official 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia leading a high-level delegation.

AL-BAZ MAKES STATEMENT ON MUBARAK MEETING 7 FEB

NC071624 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA) -- Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, stated after President Husni Mubarak's meeting today with the political group that the president informed his advisers of the details of his discussions in Washington, Ottawa, London, and Paris.

Dr al-Baz added that some domestic matters connected with the results achieved in the talks, specifically in the economic sector, were also discussed.

Dr al-Baz said Dr Butrus Ghali also reported on his mission in Khartoum, during which he delivered a message from President Mubarak to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri on his talks in the countries he visited during his recent trip.

In reply to a question on the date of the meeting of the supreme integration council, Dr al-Baz said no date has yet been set, but contacts are currently underway in this regard.

In reply to another question about the talks on the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, Dr al-Baz said: We hope agreement will be reached on the withdrawal with the help of the United States. We think that the time element is decisive in this regard. We are hopeful that an agreement can be reached, at least in principle, during this month.

Dr al-Baz said the consultations between Egypt and Jordan are continuing. He expressed the hope that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides will agree on the required coordination to push the peace efforts, considering that this period is very crucial and delicate.

He expressed the hope that the moves of all the Arab sides, particularly the states which can exert influence in this stage, will be positive.

He said: We think that the time factor is very important, and that every day that passes without an Arab move will lead to further aggravation in the situation. Time is no longer in the interest of the Arabs at all.

Asked whether there are contacts for the resumption of the autonomy talks and about the Egyptian visualization of how things should be in the coming stage, Dr al-Baz said there are no contacts in this regard. He said the natural development, according to the visualization of all the parties, is for the Israeli forces to withdraw from Lebanon and, at the same time, for the Palestinians to take a decision to join the negotiations.

He added that this should be followed by a crystallization of a unified Palestinian-Jordanian position to make it possible to proceed forward with the negotiations on the West Bank and Gaza.

He pointed out that there are continuing consultations between King Husayn and President Mubarak. We always exchange views and information, he said.

Dr al-Baz said all the parties are watching for the outcome of the PNC meeting which will be held in Algiers on 14 February.

He said serious efforts are being made for coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian positions. We welcome and encourage this coordination, and consider the achievement of coordination in their views as a positive development.

Asked about the decision which the PNC might take and which is needed by King Husayn if he is to join the negotiations, Dr al-Baz said: I cannot speak on Jordan's behalf.

Asked about the Egyptian Government's position toward the U.S. Administration and whether the U.S. Administration will persuade Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and stop the building of settlements to help King Husayn join the peace negotiations, Dr al-Baz said: We feel encouraged by the fact that the U.S. Government has decided to play an effective role in the establishment of just peace in the area.

He added: We for our part are doing our best to facilitate this to enable the U.S. Government to achieve the positive results it is hoping for. What we envisage are balanced arrangements so the Palestinian citizen can feel secure about entering the negotiations.

Dr al-Baz said the Israeli occupation of the West Bank is not characterized by justice or fairness, and that the Israelis, through this occupation, are imposing their will on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and are making changes in the geographic nature of this area which cannot be stopped without a U.S. role which will convince the Israeli Government that the aim of achieving peace is much more important than the continuation of the Israeli settlements policy. He expressed the hope that the United States will continue to play an influential role in the area.

Dr al-Baz pointed out that U.S. President Reagan has made it clear to Egypt and other parties that the United States will remain committed to promoting the peace efforts until a comprehensive peace settlement is achieved. He said this commitment was reaffirmed during President Mubarak's talks in Washington. We felt that the U.S. Congress and U.S. public opinion also share this commitment. He added: We think that the United States is aware that it shoulders a certain degree of responsibility and that the time element is very important. We do not know whether this will become reality or not. This will be determined by time. However, we must allow this commitment a chance to become fruitful. Asked about the possibility of a division in the PLO during the PNC meeting, Dr al-Baz said: It seems to me that the moderate line is prevailing in the organization and that Yasir 'Arafat has the support of the majority of the Palestinian people.

Dr al-Baz expressed the hope that no division will take place inside the PLO. He said division will lead to the suffering of the Palestinian people themselves. He said: We have learned from past lessons when the Arabs suffered because of the various divisions among them. Asked whether Egypt is coordinating between the PLO and the Palestinians in the West Bank, Dr al-Baz said: We are not playing this role because there is direct contact between them and the Palestinians. They are in contact with each other, and their views are known. There is no need for such a role on the part of Egypt or any other state.

Al-Baz Returns From Jordan

NC071433 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz returned to Cairo today from Jordan after conveying a message to King Husayn of Jordan from President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of the talks which his excellency held in the United States, Canada, Britain, and France.

MUBARAK MEETS WITH OMANI OFFICIAL 7 FEB

NC071551 Cairo MENA in English 1345 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, Feb 7 (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak today received Dr 'Umar az-Zawawi, visiting advisor to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman.

President Mubarak entrusted Az-Zawawi with a message to the sultan on the outcome of his talks in the United States, Canada, Britain, and France.

BUTRUS GHALI MEETS DPRK VICE FOREIGN MINISTER

NC051914 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali tonight met with DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Il Ko [name as received] who arrived in Cairo yesterday.

The talks at the meeting dealt with the Nonaligned Movement, the questions connected with the nonaligned summit conference which convenes in March in New Delhi, and the issues to be put before it.

The DPRK vice foreign minister presented Korea's views on the questions to be discussed at the conference.

Dr Ghali stressed the need of supporting the movement and safeguarding its nonalignment. The talks also dealt with bilateral realations and cooperation between the two countries in various fields and investments and economic and trade cooperation.

Talks will be held tomorrow, Sunday, at the Foreign Ministry between Il Ko and Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Umran ash-Shafi'i.

The DPRK delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday as part of a tour of some Arab states to present the Korean view on some questions related to the Nonaligned Movement.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY ON ISMAT AS-SADAT CASE

NC061713 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, Feb 6 (AFP) -- Egypt's late President Anwar as-Sadat was more of a hindrance than a help to his younger brother's business career, a lawyer for Ismat as-Sadat said today before Egypt's Ethics Court where his client is on trial for corruption.

President as-Sadat kept his brother Ismat and other relatives from using the Egyptian port of Alexandria, forbade them from setting up a firm abroad and barred them from business dealings with Egypt's state-run companies, the court was told.

"The accused asked for nothing and got nothing" from their relation to the late president, defense attorney 'Abd al-Munim ash-Sharqawi argued.

Defense pleadings in the trial of Ismat as-Sadat and two of his sons, Jalal and Tal'at, on charges of massive misappropriation of public funds are scheduled to continue until Thursday.

Mr ash-Sharqawi also told the court that the case had been marred by procedural errors including the confiscation of Mr as-Sadat's assets ordered last October 18 before the opening of an official investigation.

He accused the prosecutor of seeking to "humiliate citizens because they bear the name of As-Sadat."

IRANIAN POW'S ARRIVE IN AL-'AMARAH 7 FEB

JN071719 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA) -- The INA correspondent in Maysan governorate has stated that hundreds of Iranian POW's reached Al-'Amarah city, 360 km south of Baghdad, this afternoon.

The correspondent added that these prisoners are the first group of the Iranians captured in the Iranian aggression against the Iraqi forces in the Ash-Shib area, in the southern Maysan sector, at dawn today.

The correspondent stressed that he saw a large number of children who are no more than 10 years old and old men who are more than 80 years old.

BAGHDAD TELEVISION SHOWS IRANIAN DEAD, POW'S

JN072058 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA) -- Baghdad television tonight screened a film showing the heavy Iranian losses and thousands of Iranian dead littering the battlefield. It was clear that several Iranian human waves were annihilated during the Iraqi forces' confrontation of an Iranian offensive launched in the Ash-Shib area in the Maysan operational sector today. The bodies were seen covering a large part of the ground where a battle took place today, during which 6,894 Iranians were killed and large numbers were wounded.

The film also showed Iranian POW's in long queues being evacuated. The POW's were seen raising their hands in surrender to the Iraqi soldiers who repulsed their offensive. These POW's were evacuated by scores of Iraqi military transport vehicles to the rear and then to the city of Al-'Amarah 360 km south of Baghdad. Iraqi soldiers were shown giving the POW's water, food, and medical care.

IRAQ SUMMONS DIPLOMATS ON IRAN'S OFFENSIVE

JN072037 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA) -- Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, tonight sent cables to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, UN Secretary General Javier Peres de Cuellar, Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Habib Chatti, and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca on the new Iranian aggression against Iraq's soil and sovereignty, and the dangers this aggression poses to the region's security and stability as well as to world peace and security.

In his cables, the foreign minister called on the Arab League, the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement to assume their responsibilities toward this aggression, which is considered a flagrant defiance of the resolutions passed by these Arab and international organizations -- resolutions which stressed the need to halt the war and reach a peaceful, just, and honorable settlement of the conflict.

In another development, the Foreign Ministry today summoned the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Iraq and informed them of the details of the treacherous Iranian offensive, which is aimed at the security of Iraq and the Arab nation. It asked the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions to communicate to their governments these details as well as the need to adopt an appropriate stand, in harmony with the principles of Arab solidarity, the Arab League Charter, and the resolutions of the recent Fes summit.

The Foreign Ministry also summoned the heads of the diplomatic missions of the UN Security Council's permanent member states, asserting that their governments should assume their responsibility toward this aggression in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter, which call for preserving world peace and security and for implementing the UN Security Council resolutions as stated under Article 25 of this charter.

KING HUSAYN, KING FAHD, MUBARAK PHONE SADDAM

JN072059 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA) -- Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Jordanian King Husayn, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak telephoned President Saddam Husayn tonight. The three leaders stressed their countries' support for Iraq in defending its land and sovereignty.

During these telephone conversations, President Saddam Husayn affirmed the solidity of the Iraqi front and Iraq's ability to repulse the expanionist Iranian invaders. He reassured the three leaders about the Iraqi forces' high combat readiness.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN COMMENTS ON IRANIAN OFFENSIVE

JN080856 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has warned the Iranian rulers against launching any new offensive on Iraq, stressing that death will be lying in wait for their forces which are being sent for the sake of expansion and aggression. The president added that with God's help, their fate will be as tragic as those which took part in the aggression on the night of 6-7 February.

President Saddam Husayn advised the Iranian rulers, out of Iraq's desire to spare further shedding of blood, to learn from the bitter experience in the Ash-Shib area. He called on the Iranian rulers to heed the interests of their peoples and the voice of peace and not to indulge in the whims of the evil soul and the satanic voice, and not to forge ahead with their military operations which they announced before their last offensive.

This came within the context of President Saddam Husayn's answer to a question by the INA on the recent Ash-Shib battles.

The president warned the Iranian rulers that should they choose once again the road of expansion and aggression, they will be choosing the road of death and humiliation. The Iraqis' fire will be lying in wait for them and they will be burned in hell on the day of final judgment, God willing. The following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's comment:

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY put the following question to President Leader Saddam Husayn: What is your comment on the recent Ash-Shib battles?

His excellency gave the following reply:

For the sake of God and out of our desire to spare the shedding of further blood, we advise the Tehran rulers to learn from the bitter experience they had in the Ash-Shib area. We also advise them to heed the interests of their peoples and the voice of peace and not to indulge in the whims of the evil soul and the voice of the devil, and not to forge ahead in carrying out the military operations which they announced before their last offensive.

Death will be lying in wait for their forces which are driven by expansion and aggression. Their rate, with God's help, will be as tragic as that of the forces which were sent to carry out aggression on the night of 6-7 February.

We repeat our advice to them to read our statements to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY on 6 February in order to see facts as they are.

We also advise those with eyes to see to watch the films on these battles so they will know how tragic the situation is and which conveys the bitter fact impartially. The mutilated bodies of their dead cover the land without being able to seize a single inch of Iraqi territory.

Should they choose the road of expansion and aggression, they will be choosing the road of death and humiliation. The Iraqis' fire will be lying in wait for them and they will be burned in hell on the day of final judgement, God willing. He who forewarns is excused.

IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES REPORTED 7 FEBRUARY

Communique No 990

GF071136 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1058 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Communique No 990 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "Then taste the chastisement of your unbelief." [Koranic verse]

O great Iraqi people, O brave men of our armed forces wherever you are, O heroes in the Maysan operations sector: Within the framework of the expansionist designs of the suspect Khomeyni regime, in proud Iraq and the great Arab homeland, and prompted by imperialist and Zionist forces and the traitors of the Arab nation such as Hafiz al-Asad and Al-Qadhdhafi, the treacherous enemy once again attempted to try his miserable luck in crossing our international border and desecrating our sacred soil. He attacked our heroic forces in two stages: The first stage was after the midnight of 6-7 February, and the second stage at 0700 today. The attacking force, estimated at two divisions of infantry, armor, Khomeyni guards, and volunteers, were totally destroyed. The armored column that formed part of the attacking force and which included tanks, personnel carriers, and various other vehicles was annihilated.

A number of tanks, personnel carriers, and vehicles all in serviceable condition, were captured.

Thus, the first wave of the enemy's attack in the Ash-Shib area, which is part of the sector controlled by IV Corps, was totally destroyed. The enemy's future waves, which the enemy has been declaring in his statements and through his intentions that he will be throwing into battle, will be destroyed in any other area in the Maysan operations sector.

Hundreds of enemy prisoners have been evacuated to the rear lines. The gathering and evacuation of prisoners was continuing at the time of preparing the communique.

God is great. Victory for dear and victorious Iraq.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 February 1983

Communique No 991

JN071629 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA) -- It was announced here tonight that 6,894 Iranians were killed in the abortive offensive which the Iranian forces launched in the Maysan operational sector today, in addition to large numbers of wounded, and hundreds of prisoners of war, who have been evacuated to the rear.

Communique No 991 that the dead were left on the battlefield.

The communique said that scores of Iranian tanks, personnel carriers, vehicles, and various other equipment had been destroyed and are still burning on the battlefield. It added that the Iraqi forces seized a number of serviceable tanks, personnel carriers, and large quantities of weapons, hardware, and various other equipment.

The communique said that today Iraqi fighter planes and helicopters carried out 129 combat missions against the Iranian forces before returning safely to base. It added that the Iraqi aircraft inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy forces and that fire was seen devouring the enemy positions, dead men and destroyed equipment, vehicles, and tanks.

The communique indicated that today the Iranian artillery shelled the cities of Basra and Mandali several times, killing seven children and wounding four citizens in Basra and killing one citizen, and damaging five houses, one elementary school, and one car in Mandali.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 991 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

1. Subsequent to our Communique No 990, which was issued this afternoon, 7 February, in which we indicated that the spiteful enemy's offensive which began in the Ash-Shib area within the Maysan operational sector last night and this morning was crushed and destroyed, the enemy's known losses counted today amounted to 6,894 killed -- their bodies still littering the battlefield -- very large numbers of wounded, hundreds of prisoners of war who have been evacuated to the rear from the battlefront, scores of tanks, personnel carriers, vehicles, and various equipment destroyed and left on the battleground ablaze, and several serviceable tanks and personnel carriers, as well as equipment captured.

2. Our bold fighter planes and helicopters have since dawn been carrying out strong, concentrated attacks on enemy units and positions in the Ash-Shib area in the Maysan operational sector and on enemy targets and concentrations deep inside Iranian territory in the southern sector of the battlefield. Our aircraft imposed full control over the battle skies, pouring fire on enemy assembly points and units. These attacks were extremely successful and were carried out through the splendid coordination with the heroic ground forces in the said sector. Our fighter planes and helicopters have inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy. Fire was seen devouring the enemy positions, dead men and destroyed equipment, vehicles, and tanks. All our aircraft returned safely and victoriously to their base, thanks to God, after accomplishing their duties. Our aircraft today carried out 129 combat missions.

3. With barbarism and savagery, the Khomeyniite clique, which harbors a grudge against our steadfast people, today continued its intermittent artillery shelling of the cities of Basra and Mandali and their outskirts. The enemy's savage shelling led to the martydrom of seven children and the injury of four citizens in Basra. The treacherous Khomeyniite shelling also led to the martydrom of one civilian and the damage of five houses, one elementary school, two shops, and one civilian car in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 February 1983

PLO'S 'ARAFAT BEGINS DISCUSSIONS IN AMMAN

Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee

JN071431 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Amman, 7 Feb (INA) -- The higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee began 2 days of meetings here today. An informed PLO office source in Amman told INA today that the meetings will be extremely important, due to the topics to be discussed. The source added that the conferees will discuss future Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the solutions being submitted to solve the Palestinian issue peacefully. The course indicated that all the topics to be discussed during the meetings will be submitted to the PNC session in Algiers on 14 February for endorsement. PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat is chairing the Palestinian side of the meetings, and Prime Minister Mudar Badran is chairing the Jordanian side.

Husayn-'Arafat Meeting

JN071416 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn is meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at An-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. Prime Minister Mudar Badran is attending the meeting, which is still in session. Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman this morning on a several-day visit to Jordan. Prime Minister Mudar Badran paid a courtesy visit to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at his place of residence in the guest palace. The meeting was attended by Occupied Land Affairs Minister Hasan Ibrahim and a number of Palestinian officials.

Future Relations Discussed

JN071819 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran at An-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. During the meeting, which lasted 2 and 1/2 hours, the two sides discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian question in light of the Arab and international state of affairs. They also discussed the way to determine and establish the future relationship between Jordan and the PLO with the aim of rescuing the land, liberating the kinfolk from the Israeli occupation, and reaching a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue.

JORDAN REPORTEDLY TO JOIN TALKS IN MID-FEBRUARY

PM080937 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Feb 83 p 1

[ASH-SHARW AL- AWSAT Cairo Bureau report: "King Husayn Likely To Announce Shortly He Is Joining Negotiations With Joint Delegation"]

[Excerpt] Cairo [no date given] -- King Husayn, the Jordanian monarch, is expected to announce that he is joining the negotiations for comprehensive peace in the Middle East during the second half of February, highly placed sources told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. The sources said that the Jordanian monarch actually informed the U.S. Administration of his agreement to participate in the peace process after receiving PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's agreement that the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations should include Palestinian personalities from the West Bank and Gaza accepted by the PLO.

The sources said that Jordan is awaiting a decision of the PNC, which is to meet in Algeria in mid-February, regarding Palestinian representation within the Jordanian delegation, after which King Husayn will go to Washington to announce he is joining the peace process. The sources explained at 'Arafat has pledged to the Jordanian monarch to put the matter to the PNC.

The sources affirmed that during his recent visit to Washington King Husayn obtained written assurances from President Reagan to adhere to the U.S. proposals and that the U.S. Administration in future will not, in theory, object to developments and circumstances that might allow the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Observers believe that in the event that Jordan overcomes the problem of Palestinian representation, King Husayn will have to face certain other pressures from the Palestinian factions collaborating with Syria and Libya.

Well-informed sources said that the Palestinians have not yet been able to reach a decision, despite the fact that the majority of the PNC member approve the agreement reached between King Husayn and 'Arafat on the grounds that it the only choice now available, and that PNC rejection of the agreement, if Syrian and Libyan pressures succeed, will create a grave situation that will return the Palestine problem to the vicious circle of bilateral talks which might last several years.

AR-RA'Y ATTACKS VILLAGE LEAGUES' U.S. VISIT

JN051049 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Suspect Delegation," AR-RA'Y says: In a premeditated attempt to disrupt the peace efforts, to strike at the PLO, and to portrary Palestinian ranks as fragmented in the international arena, a delegation comprising several of those involved in the so-called village leagues in the Occupied West Bank will leave for the United States tomorrow under the pretext of seeking peace, achieving a just solution to the Palestinian issue, and seeking sources to finance these leagues.

The obvious reasons behind the suspect delegation's move can be summarized as follows:

First, to mislead the U.S. Administration and public opinion into believing that the village leagues represent the Palestinians, thus casting doubt on the PLO's status. Second, to fabricate a political character for these leagues and to force them into a claimed role in seeking a just solution for the problem. Third, to discourage the U.S. Administration from entering into a direct dialogue with the PLO and to provide justifications for this. Fourth, to enable Israel to announce that political dealing should take place with the leagues instead of the PLO. Fifth, to disrupt the Jordanian-Palestinian joint march. Sixth, as a result of all this, the final aim emerges, which is to employ a Palestinian hand in aborting peace efforts. This would save Israel from shouldering all the responsibility, in that it would not appear before the world to be the only side hampering the peace process.

Needless to say, the timing of the delegation's move was accurately chosen. It coincides with the expected crystallization of the Jordanian-Palestinian march, from which the U.S. Administration expects a momentous force for peace efforts in the region to emerge. This explains how carefully the Israeli plot was timed to disrupt the peace process through the village leagues. Thus, the U.S Administration should be alert when dealing with the suspect delegation. Otherwise it will complicate the situation and will assist in the sabotage scheme planned and being implemented by Israel.

As for the agent leagues search for financing in the U.S. arena, it resembles to a great extent the Zionist organizations' search. Who knows, perhaps the financing sources are the same. The agent leagues are stooping to a level which is becoming obvious and is yet another black mark to be added to their tarnished record. The visit of their delegation to the United States will not benefit these leagues and they will never gain representative status, political participation, or a negotiating role because agentry is their character and role and failure will undoubtedly be their lot. The masses in the occupied territories are alert and realize that these fumbling leagues will not be able to dissuade the people from demanding their historical national rights and their right to self-determination.

HUSAYN CONFERS WITH BANGLADESH'S ERSHAD

JN071936 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met with Lieutenant General Mohammad Hussain Ershad, Bangladesh's chief martial law administrator and prime minister, at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening.

The two sides reviewed current Arab and Islamic issues, developments in the Palestinian issue and efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. They affirmed in this regard that the region's peace, security, and stability cannot be achieved except by removal of Israeli occupation from the occupied Arab territories, the return of Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty, and a guarantee for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The two sides also discussed their strong bilateral relations and means of bolstering joint cooperation between them in all fields to serve the interests of the two peoples.

The meeting was attended for Jordan by Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Court Minister 'Amir Khammash; Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim; and Interior Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat. For Bangladesh, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shamsul Doha; Bangladesh Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Mohsin,; Mohammad Hussain, Foreign Ministry secretary general; and (Mahbub al-'Alam), directpr general of information abroad.

Lt Gen Ershad arrived in Amman this evening on a brief visit to Jordan. The guest was accorded an official welcome attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The two countries' national anthems were played and Lt Gen Ershad and the prime minister inspected the guard of honor. The court minister, the foreign minister, the interior minister, the chief of staff, and Bangladesh's nonresident ambassador to Jordan also welcomed the guest.

Departs 7 Feb

JN072107 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpts] His majesty the king received at the royal court this evening the visiting Bangladesh Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General Mohammad Hussain Ershad with whom he reviewed Arab and Islamic issues including the Palestine question and efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. Lt Gen Ershad has now left Amman for home.

KAHAN COMMISSION FINDINGS ELICIT REACTION

Ihdin Radio on Findings

NC081227 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] The results of the Kahan commission's inquiry into the Sabra and Shatila camps massacres were issued today.

What can be said, although a little early, about the commission's report, which was published at 1000 today, is that it holds the Phalangists directly responsible for the massacre in the two camps and does not hold the Israeli officials responsible for the consequences of the massacre except for the fact that they did not intervene to halt it -- that is, indirect responsibility.

Radio Free Lebanon Comments

NC081300 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Today's principal report is not from Khaldah, Qiryat Shemona, 'Alayh, or the mountain; it is from Jerusalem itself where the judicial commission looking into the Sabra and Shatila incidents published the results of its investigations in a report it released at 1000 today. The report holds the Israeli defense minister personally responsible and calls on him to draw personal conclusions from the investigations. If he refuses to do so, then Prime Minister Begin should dismiss a minister from the government in accordance with his powers.

Sources in the ruling Likud bloc have pointed to the Israeli radio report that Begin might prefer to submit the resignation of his government rather than dismiss any minister.

The report also accuses Begin of negligence, criticizes Foreign Minister Shamir for having been careless, and demands the resignation of the intelligence chief, Sagi. It also demands that Yaron, Israeli forces commander in Beirut, be denied a command post for a period of 3 years.

AL-JUMAYYIL CALLS ISRAELI CONDITIONS 'IMPOSSIBLE'

NC071514 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] The Cabinet meeting, which was held at noon today, ended at 1500. The Cabinet's acting secretary general, Shafiq Munayminah, made the following statement after the meeting: At the beginning of the meeting, President al-Jumayyil emphasized the need for preparing the legislative draft decrees on issues and domains on which the government was given exceptional legislative powers.

After that President al-Jumayyil spoke about the general situation in Lebanon. He stated that the Internal Security Forces are in control of the situation in Tripoli despite certain minor problems recently.

His excellency the president briefed the Cabinet on the contacts held over the weekend to contain the sudden eruption in the 'Alayh area and to entrust the head of the negotiating Lebanese delegation, Ambassador Antoine Fattal, to submit this issue at today's negotiations session, particularly on keeping order in the affected areas.

President al-Jumayyil asserted that several meetings have been held to enable the state to take control in all areas beginning with Beirut, particularly putting the security situation under control, establishing stability, and tackling financial deterioration and smuggling to check their adverse effects on the treasury.

President al-Jumayyil dwelt on the tripartite Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations to achieve the withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. He informed the Cabinet that Israel is demanding impossible [ta'jiziyah] conditions and that Lebanon is not ready to accept or grant these conditions. He expressed his appreciation of the Lebanese negotiators' merit and sincerity and adherence to Lebanon's supreme interests. His excellency expressed his hope that U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib, who is expected to arrive in Beirut this week, will carry basic support for the state of Lebanon and its position in the current negotiations, though Lebanon seeks the help of all its friends and forces that are capable of giving it support in regaining full authority over its territory. He expressed his optimism about the future.

REMOTE-CONTROLLED ROCKETS FIRED AT KHALDAH HOTEL

NC071815 Paris AFP in English 1806 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 7 (AFP) — Two Katyusha rockets were fired in the direction of the Lebanon Beach Hotel today where Lebanese-Israeli negotiators were meeting for their 13th round of talks on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

A spokesman for the Italian contingent of the multinational peacekeeping force said the rockets were fired from the Al-Awza'i region, at the southern exit of the city.

The rockets were thought to have fallen into the sea, beyond the hotel.

Troops immediately surrounded the building from where the rockets were fired. They discovered two rocket launchers and two rockets which had not been fired. The whole system was remote controlled.

Until the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer the building served as an advance position of the Syrian Army.

Two weeks ago a Katyusha rocket fell within 100 metres (yards) of the Lebanon Beach Hotel, shortly before negotiations were due to begin.

At today's talks the weekend clashes at 'Alayh, in Israeli-occupied territory near Beirut were discussed.

VOL REPORTS ON SIGNING OF AGREEMENT IN 'ALAYH

NC071423 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1235 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Dispatch from 'Alayh on signing of Agreement among Lebanese Forces, socialists, and Israelis -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Indeed, the agreement was signed some time ago. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Lebanese Forces by Nazo Nazarian and Sami Khuwayri, and by Salim Ru'aydi as representative of the Phalangist Party. The socialist side was represented by Hisham Nasir ad-Din. Dr 'Atif Sallum was absent from the meeting, which was also attended by Shaykh Fadlallah Talhuq. The agreement was signed on the Israeli side by General Dagon together with two senior aides from the Israeli command as well as by Colonel (Emil), commander of the 'Alayh area.

The agreement is considered a document of a security nature, and the sides must abide by it in the hope that it will be start of good relations between the two communities. It is considered as a security agreement between the Druze and the Christians in the mountain.

The signatories will be responsible for maintaining security and for working according to this agreement.

The State of Israel, as the agreement states, is a basic party and it will be responsible for supervision and for punishing whoever dares to violate the provisions of this agreement. Israel reserves the right to choose the ways and means to impose order and maintain the provisions of this agreement.

The agreement stipulates that after the signing of this agreement all military activity and acts of violence and disturbance between the two sides will stop. This includes sniper fire and kidnapping. All roads that have been cut during the incidents will be reopened. All sides must work to restore normal life and work with the officials to repair the water, telephone, and electricity networks.

The agreement also provides for the termination of reciprocal information campaigns via radio, television, and the press. The two sides should make statements with a view to establishing security among the inhabitants. All evacuees will be returned to their homes within 3 days.

Regarding ways to maintain the agreement, the agreement stipulates that operations rooms will be established in areas to be agreed upon later. These operations rooms will include an Israeli officer, two officers from the Lebanese Forces, two responsible Druze commanders, and two civilian representatives -- a Druze and a Christian.

The duty of the operations rooms is to work for implementing the provisions of the agreement, and it will be responsible for removing obstacles which could crop up in the future.

Meetings will be held between religious and influential leaders from both sides in places to be announced in advance. A central operations room will be established in Galerie Khayrallah, where the principal representatives from all the parties will meet to run the affairs of the regional operations rooms.

The agreement also stipulates that the IDF will run patrols on the roads with a view to supervising the implementation of the agreement. The possibility of running joint patrols will be discussed in the future.

ISRAELI SPOKESMAN ON SHARON REMARKS ON 'ALAYH

NC071735 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpt] At the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations session held in Khaldah today, head of the Lebanese delegation Antoine Fattal made the first statement. He raised the security issue in the area controlled by the Israeli army in the mountain and its responsibility for it in keeping with The Hague and Geneva conventions regarding occupation and safeguarding citizens' security.

The Israeli spokesman said the Israeli commander in 'Alayh and Ash-Shuf, General Amnon, was summoned to the negotiations session in Khaldah. The official Israeli spokesman was asked if the Israeli position during the 'Alayh battles yesterday is within the context of Ari'el Sharon's statement that in the event the Israeli Defense Forces withdraw from the mountain, the Christians will see what will happen to them. He excitedly said: Be more serious than that.

Asked if this means that Minister Sharon's statement is not serious, the spokesman said: I did not say this. I hope you will keep your questions until the subcommittees' meeting. He added: The subcommittees are meeting and they are seriously and deeply discussing the points on which we will reach an understanding.

SHAM'UN MEETS AL-JUMAYYIL, MAKES STATEMENT

NC081252 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] This morning Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil discussed with former President Camille Sham'un the general situation in the country, particularly the new situation in 'Alayh and the progress of the negotiations which Lebanon is conducting to ensure the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces.

President Sham'un called for the deployment of the Lebanese Army to maintain order and security and to protect the citizens in 'Alayh and Ash-Shuf as a deterrent, effective, and basic force to restore the Lebanese state's authority.

After the meeting, Sham'un said: The talks dealt with a general review of the current situation, particularly the new developments in the mountain, in 'Alayh and in Ash-Shuf. The current negotiations between the Lebanese and the Israeli delegations were also reviewed. He added: I believe that an end can be put to all the incidents such as those happening in 'Alayh and Ash-Shuf by the deployment of the Lebanese Army, which is capable of maintaining security and stability and of assuring the citizens' tranquillity.

He said: We in Lebanon need a deterrent force to bring about security and stability. We only have the Lebanese Army, which must be deployed in 'Alayh and Ash-Shuf. We also must overcome all the obstacles preventing the army's deployment. Concerning the negotiations, Sham'un said: Their progress is normal. There are matters from which we cannot depart, and President al-Jumayyil cares about these matters, and the Lebanese negotiator is aware of them.

Answering a question about the Kahan commission's report, which holds Sharon responsible for the massacres and requests his dismissal, Sham'un said: We must first wait for the reaction in Israel. It will be either the resignation of Sharon or the calling of early elections. We must wait to see the Israeli Government's reaction. I believe, Sham'un added, that the negotiations will continue.

SUBCOMMITTEES TO CONTINUE MEETINGS 8 FEB

NC071523 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah]

[Text] The Information Ministry delegation to the negotiations in Khaldah has the following report: The subcommittees ended their meetings at 1630 today. They discussed topics on the agenda and decided to resume the discussions in Khaldah tomorrow to agree on the draft text for final agreements.

Lebanese military spokesman Major 'Atif Tarabay made the following statement: Three subcommittees held meetings today. They are the subcommittee on withdrawals and security arrangement, the subcommittee on the framework of mutual relations, and the subcommittee on ending the state of war. The discussions were characterized by joint efforts to formulate common draft texts. The subcommittees will resume their meetings in Khaldah tomorrow, Tuesday.

Delegations Arrive 8 Feb

NC080851 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation in Khaldah in Arabic and French; processed from Arabic]

[Text] The negotiating delegations arrived at the Lebanese Beach Hotel at 0920 today. The members separated into groups on the first floor of the hotel to discuss and review the new political and security developments preparatory to starting the official talks at the specialized subcommittees level.

The prevailing atmosphere is quite normal, and there is nothing new drawing attention. We will inform you of any new developments as soon as the committees meet, which will be any time now. The first to arrive at the hotel was the Lebanese delegation followed by the Israeli and then the U.S. delegations. They are now getting ready for the committee meetings.

Therefore, there is nothing new to tell you before the committees meet and before the agenda of their discussions this morning is known.

Subcommittees Recess Until 10 Feb

NC081058 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1012 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Dispatch by Lebanese Information Ministry delegation in Khaldah]

[Text] The meetings of the specialized subcommittees are continuing to this hour. Today's meetings were confined to the committee on the withdrawals and the committee on the framework of mutual relations. The meetings of the two committees started at 1100. The heads of delegations declined to answer newsmen's questions. However, Dr Fattal, the head of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations, in reply to a question, said: We are awaiting the arrival of Ambassador Philip Habib to see what new proposals he is carrying to speed up the negotiations and to arrive at the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Dr David Kimche, the head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations, also declined to make a statement but said that the atmosphere is good and so is the climate today and that there has been some progress in the negotiations. Regarding the findings of the commission of inquiry on the massacres in the camps and the recomendations of the commission's chairman for the resignation or dismissal of Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and the chief of the Israeli intelligence, Dr Kimche said: I have no comment to make. Ask Sharon about his attitude.

Kimche added: I am here for the negotiations only. I have no comment to make on other subjects.

The subcommittees yesterday agreed to discuss the provisions on ending the state of war and to move from theoretical proposals to practical means for deciding on the points contained in the compound agenda.

We have just been informed that the meeting of the two subcommittees has ended. Members of the two committees emerged from the conference rooms and are now outside the rooms deliberating among themselves about the results they achieved at this morning meeting.

Therefore, at 1210 today, the subcommittees concluded their meetings hoping to resume the negotiations at a plenary meeting on Thursday in Qiryat Shemona in Israel. This was our third and last dispatch on the negotiations from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah.

Ross Quoted on Progress

NC081246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Excerpt] U.S. spokesman Christopher Ross has told newsmen that the negotiations are proceeding very slowly.

Asked if this means that the negotiations will go on for another 3 months before an agreement is reached, he said in Arabic: No. This is a long time. We must hand over the Lebanon Beach Hotel before the summer season.

Beirut Radio Assesses Progress

NC080827 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The question of withdrawals from Lebanon remains the main concern of officials in the tripartite negotiations and in the current contacts at several levels to achieve this goal to consolidate Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and to reject the crippling conditions. Attention has been focused on the security situation in order to achieve stability, particularly in the mountain, where efforts have led to a relative calm.

It can be said so far that 13 rounds of Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations to bring about Israeli withdrawals from Lebanese territory have passed without achieving the desired results. The statements released about the results of these rounds did not include as positive aspects more than a phrase about some progress or tangible progress. Such a phrase does not translate the urgent Lebanese desire for speeding up the negotiations into the withdrawal of Israel and of all the illegitimate forces.

Lebanon, as reiterated in officials' statements, depends on speed and rejects the delay in the negotiations, which in fact, is in Israel's interest. The time factor, if prolonged, will, in the Israeli viewpoint, bring new considerations, particularly in the United States, where elections [as heard] will start next March. Israel also believes that in view of these elections, the U.S. Administration would be unable to bring pressure to bear on it.

Moreover, Israel, as events show, particularly in view of the recent events in 'Alayh and the prolongation of the negotiations, will remain capable of controlling the security card in the mountain and perhaps other cards, which it is playing at the negotiation table in its favor.

Hence President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil frankly stated at the outset of yesterday's Cabinet session that Israel has been levying crippling conditions at the negotiations and that Lebanon rejects these conditions.

Therefore, the meetings of the subcommittees in Khaldah yesterday brought no solutions. If Lebanon depends mainly on its natural, legal, and international right to restore its sovereignty and to exercise its independence in full, and if it draws its firmness in the negotiations from this right and from the unity of the Lebanese ranks behind the government, a solution should then come from one source, namely U.S. envoy Philip Habib, who is reportedly coming to the area with his stance.

Pending the arrival of Habib and an examination of his new proposals, it must be stated that the new ideas which he might carry and about which much has been said before his arrival must not be the kind of ideas which the people have already heard from Washington. Rather, they should bring about practical results this time in accordance with the firm U.S. intention to achieve complete and speedy withdrawals from Lebanon and to enable the Lebanese Government to restore Lebanese sovereignty over all its territory and to restore its full independence within the framework of its internationally recognized borders.

The last to reiterate such a U.S. affirmation was President Reagan, who accused Israel of delaying the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and of occupying the country.

BRITISH SOLDIERS ARRIVE IN BEIRUT 8 FEB

NC081326 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] A British unit composed of 80 soldiers arrived this morning to join the multinational force deployed in Beirut. The force comes within the framework of the British participation in the multinational force's task to bring about peace and restore the Lebanese state's authority over all the country.

PARLIAMENT SPEAKER LEAVES FOR RABAT 7 FEB

NC071350 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad left Beirut for Rabat at approximately 1300 today. He will preside over the activities of the 13th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union's Council, which will be held from 8 to 10 February.

GEORGE HAWI, DELEGATION VISIT YUGOSLAVIA

For Belgrade coverage of the visit of Secretary General of the Lebanese Communist Party George Hawi and the delegation accompanying him to Yugoslavia, including their arrival on 3 February, talks with Nikola Stojanovic, secretary of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, and also a report on talks Hawi held with President of the Presidency of the LCY Mitja Ribicic, see the Yugoslavia section of the 7 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

ENVOY DELIVERS KHAMENE'I MESSAGE TO AL-ASAD

LD051002 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Damascus yesterday presented a letter from our country's president to Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian president. According to an IRNA dispatch, an exchange of views took place about the current situation in the region and relations between the two countries. The Syrian president expressed his pleasure over the increasing expansion of relations between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran in all areas.

INFORMATION MINISTER LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA 7 FEB

JN071836 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad left for Saudi Arabia this morning to convey a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

MINISTER ARGUES AGAINST EGYPT'S RETURN TO ARABS

JN061500 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Damascus, 6 Feb (SANA) -- Comrade Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, Ba'th Party National Command member and information minister, has asserted that at present Egypt cannot return to the Arab League and abide by its charter, because the Camp David accords and their annexes, and the peace treaty and its concomitants confirm in writing that Egypt has isolated itself from the Arab League and has exempted itself from any Arab obligation. In a long article published in the papers here today, Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad stated: We want Egypt to be a shield, not a burden to the Arabs. The true Arab slogan should be: How to help Egypt escape from Camp David captivity and not repeat its sin. The Arab nation does not need more sinners who have involved themselves and their nation.

Comrade Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad pointed out the dangers of the Arab slogans and calls for the Arabs' return to Egypt at present, saying several Arab rulers have rushed to Egypt apologetically. He also explained with facts and documents that the political slogans on which several Arab rulers base their moves toward the negotiation table with Israel are prompted by the United States.

The information minister dislosed that As-Sadat had delivered secrets to Israel about USSR arms as a sign of goodwill.

Comrade Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad asserted that the Egyptian regime's treasonous experience with Israel and the United States has proved that peace cannot be established between the strong and the weak. He pointed out that Israel got all it wanted from Egypt and that a heavy price was paid by Arab Egypt. Comrade Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad condemned the Iraqi regime which calls for recognizing Israel and guaranteeing its security. He affirmed that the Arab nation needs the resources and sincere unified stands of all the Arab countries in order to confront the racist, expansionist Israeli invasion, which is backed by the United States.

The Syrian information minister referred to the stands recently adopted by certain writers who once posed as leftists, nationalists, and socialists. These writers, he said, have shed their skins and went about philosophizing the significance of the U.S. and Israeli offers to the Arabs. The minister condemned the stands adopted by these writers.

REPORTAGE ON FINDINGS OF INQUIRY COMMISSION

Findings on Major Figures

TA080917 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0817 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Report by Sha'ul Stav and Gil'ad Mishori]

[Text] Good day to you. On page 122 of the inquiry of commission's report we have the chapter of recommendations. Clause 89 states: In our decisions below, which concern a series of people who occupy senior positions in government and in the IDF, we took into consideration that each one of them has many rights from the point of view of public and military activity on behalf of the State of Israel with devotion and self-sacrifice. If, nevertheless, we reached the conclusion that we must recommend certain measures against some of these figures, this is out of recognition that the gravity of the matter and its implications for the foundations of public morality in Israel call for such measures.

As for the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the Mosad head, it is stated:

Above, we determined the facts and conclusions regarding the responsibility of the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the Mosad head. According to what we determined regarding the degree of responsibility of each of them, we believe that we can settle for determining their responsibility and that no recommendations are necessary.

As for the commander of the Northern Command, Amir Drori, it is stated:

We have detailed above our conclusions regarding the responsibility of commander of the Northern Command Amir Drori. During the week of the IDF's entry into West Beirut, Major General Drori was charged with many hard and complicated duties which he had to discharge after a long period of an uneasy war. He adopted certain measures to put an end to the Phalangists acts, and his blame lies in the fact that he did not pursue this path. Taking these circumstances into consideration, it seems to us that as far as Maj Gen Drori is concerned, we can settle for determining his responsibility without any further recommendation.

As for the defense minister, the commission says the following: We found that the defense minister shoulders personal responsibility as specified in this report. In our opinion, it is appropriate that the defense minister draw personal conclusions from the flaws found in the execution of his tasks, and if necessary, let the prime minister consider whether he should use his authority according to Clause 21a of the basic law, the government, whereby the prime minister can, after informing the Cabinet of his intention to do so, dismiss a minister.

As for the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan, Clause 93 of the report states: We reached grave conclusions regarding the actions and inactions or blunders of Chief of Staff Eytan. The chief of staff is going to end his term in April 1983, and taking into consideration the fact that extending his term is not under consideration, there is no significance to a recommendation about his continued service as chief of staff. Therefore, we have decided to settle for determining his responsibility without further recommendation.

There is no recommendation regarding the chief of staff then, but the commission notes it reached grave conclusions regarding his actions and inactions.

As for the head of the IDF's intelligence branch, Major General Yehoshu'a Sagi, the commission states: We have detailed the rather grave various blunders of intelligence chief Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi in discharging his duties. We recommend that Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi not continue his position as intelligence chief.

As for the commander of the paratroop division, Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron, the commission states: We have stated the degree of responsibility of Brig Gen 'Amos Yaron above. After taking all the circumstances into consideration, we recommend that Brig Gen Yaron not fulfill a command position in the IDF, and that the abolition of this restriction be not considered before 3 years from now.

In the course of the investigation, it transpired that there were faults in the functioning of systems as specified in the chapter dealing with this topic and the appropriate lesson should be drawn from this. We recommend that in addition to internal controls regarding this issue, the examination of these faults and the way to correct them be conducted by an expert or experts who will be appointed by the Ministerial Committee on Defense Affiars.

Inquiry Commission Summary

TA080946 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] The commission which looked into the massacre in Sabra and Shatila recommends that the defense minister be dismissed. The commission accuses the prime minister of being indifferent to the events in the refugee camps, and is therefore responsible for this issue, but it does not recommend anything about him. The commission puts very severe responsibility for what happened on the chief of staff, and rules that it does not recommend that he be discharged from his duties only because he is about to complete his term soon.

The commission of inquiry recommends the dismissal of the chief of IDF intelligence, and not to allow the chief paratroop and infantry commander to hold any command post in the next 3 years. The commission holds the commander of the Northern Command responsible for not persisting in the activities to get the Phalangists out of the camps, but does not recommend anything about him.

The commission of inquiry levels harsh criticism at the foreign minister's behavior after having received a report from Minister Tzipori, and reprimands him. Finally, the commission of inquiry relieves of any responsibility the head of the Mosad and the defense minister's aide, Avi Duda'i.

Referring to the defense minister, the commission states that he is responsible for ignoring the danger that acts of vengeance and bloodshed might be carried out by the Phalangists against the inhabitants of the refugee camps, and did not take this danger into account when he decided to introduce the Phalangists into the camps. In addition, the defense minister is responsible for not having ordered the proper measures to prevent or reduce the danger of a massacre -- as a condition for the entry of the Phalangists into the camps. The commission states that these blunders constitute nonfulfillment of a duty imposed on the defense minister. The commission emphasizes that even if the intelligence bodies had not warned about what might happen, the defense minister's ignorance of the threat of a massacre cannot be justified.

Referring to the prime minister, the Kahan commission states that his lack of involvement in the entire affair places a certain measure of responsibility on him. The commission did not see a reason to rid the prime minister of responsibility for not having displayed, during and after the Cabinet session, any interest in the actions of the Phalangists in the camps. The commission rejects the prime minister's position that nobody had conceived that what happened might have happened, and rejects the implication derived from his remarks that such a possibility could not have been foreseen at the time when the decision was made to introduce the Phalangists into the camps. The commission also rejects the prime minister's remarks that the danger of a massacre had absolutely not entered his mind.

The prime minister, the commission states, knew about the mutual massacres which had taken place in Lebanon during the civil war, and about the hatred of the Phalangists toward the Palestinians. The commission points out that at the time the prime minister himself stated that the IDF had entered West Beirut in order to prevent bloodshed.

Referring to the chief of staff, the commission determines that in two instances he breached his duty and did not fulfill his duty as chief of staff. On the first instance, the commission states that the chief of staff did not think about the danger of acts of violence and bloodshed on the part of the Phalangists toward the population in the camps. He did not order proper measures to prevent this danger, and this abstention is by way of nonfulfillment of the duty imposed on him in his capacity as chief of staff.

Referring to the second instance, the commission states that the chief of staff's abstention from ordering that additional Phalangist troops not be allowed into the camps on Saturday, and his instruction to provide the Phalangists with a tractor or with tractors constitutes a violation of duty and nonfulfillment of a duty. In its explanation, the commission states that the chief of staff shares the decision about the entry of the Phalangists, and is therefore responsible for the adoption and implementation of the decision. He did not express opposition or reservation during his discussion with the defense minister about the entry of the Phalangists. Had he raised such opposition, there is no doubt that his opinion would have been accepted.

As for the claim that the chief of staff did not at all conceive that there was a danger inherent to the civilian population, the commission states that his way of thinking on this issue constitutes an omission of important considerations which he should have taken into account. Moreover, the commission says, based on the chief of staff's utterances, one cannot avoid reaching the conclusion that he had ignored this conclusion and put it out of his mind, out of his recognition that there were great advantages in introducing the Phalangists into the camps, and out of hope that the Phalangists' irregular operations would not acquire large dimensions. This conclusion is also called for by the chief of staff's behavior in later stages, when reports began to arrive about irregularities committed by the Phalangists in the camps.

Further on, the commission's report states that upon receiving reports from Maj Gen Drori, the chief of staff should have ordered the immediate pullout of the Phalangists forces from the camps, caution the Phalangist commanders about their unfit deeds, and demand that they issue immediate orders to their forces to abstain from harming any civilians.

In its recommendation to transfer from his post chief of IDF intelligence Maj Gen Yeoshu'a Sagi, the commission states that he did not fulfill his duty when he did not caution against the danger of having the Phalangists enter the camps. The members of the commission state they cannot believe Maj Gen Sagi's testimony that he had heard nothing about the plan to introduce the Phalangists before Friday morning. From his testimony, one gains a picture of indifference and outstanding carelessness, that he closed his eyes and ears. According to the commission, this behavior may be explained only by the fear of the chief of intelligence that his remarks would not be paid enough attention, and would be rejected because he knew that his approach about the Phalangists was not acceptable to the defense minister and the chief of staff, and perhaps also to the prime minister. Therefore, he sufficed with preparing intelligence evaluations, but that did not cause him to fulfill his duty. Hence, as stated, the commission recommends that Maj Gen Sagi be transferred from his post.

The commission of inquiry places a great deal of responsibility on Brig Gen 'Amos Yaron, who was the commander of the IDF units in Beirut, and states that through his blunders and actions he violated duties which he should have fulfilled in his capacity of commander. He displayed obtuseness, made absolutely wrong evaluations, and evinced a lack of alertness. He did not reveal to the chief of staff everything he had heard, and he did not report to the commander of the Northern Command all the reports which reached him at an early stage; immediately after the entry of the Phalangists into the camp. The commission states that Brig Gen Yaron had received reports about the killings on the evening and night of Thursday. These reports spoke about the killing of 300 people, and it was clear that the Phalangists were killing people, which was not called for in the course of the fighting, and were also slaying women and children.

Brig Gen Yaron made do with reiterating his warnings to the Phalangists' liaison officer and did nothing to put an end to the killing. He did not inform Maj Gen Drori about the reports he had received on that same evening, or even the following morning in their telephone call. Brig Gen Yaron made light of the things he heard on this issue from an intelligence officer of the division. Brig Gen Yaron tried to justify his behavior by saying that the reports about dead people had not seemed important to him since he had far more important combat problems that same night. The commission rejects this explanation and says that Yaron could have found the time to meet for an updating, and could have issued orders to deliver the reports and take the proper measures. Brig Gen Yaron had no reservations about the introduction of the Phalangists into the camps. He testified that he had supported this decision, and he explained his position by saying that he had wanted the Phalangists to participate in the fighting and not just have the IDF do everything. When the chief of staff arrived in Beirut on Friday, Brig Gen Yaron did not reveal everything he had heard and did not make any proposal about the future activities of the Phalangists in Lebanon.

Referring to commander of the Northern Command Maj Gen Amir Drori, the commission says that it cannot be stated with sufficient certainty that he had received clear reports about killings tin the camps. Nevertheless, the commission believes that Maj Gen Drori made light of the importance and significance of the things he heard on Thursday night and Friday morning. Considering the fact that it has not been proven that he had received explicit reports about the killings and their scope, the commission states that he proceeded properly, wisely, and responsibly and with sufficient alertness at that stage.

On the other hand, the commission states that when he met with the chief of staff on Saturday, he did not make any attempt to persuade him to raise the issue of the attack on the civilian population in the meeting with the Phalangist commanders, and just made do with sitting and doing nothing. The commission says there is no justification to drop in his alertness and that he should have cautioned the chief of staff about the danger posed to the population by the continued presence of the Phalangists in the camps. According to the commission, Maj Gen Drori's abstention from doing anything on this matter constitutes a violation of a duty he was supposed to carry out.

The Kahan commission levels harsh criticism at Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and states it received the impression that the foreign minister had not made any real attempt to check whether there was any truth to the things he had heard from Minister Tzipori about the actions of the Phalangists in the camps, because he doubted Tzipori's words.

It is hard to find a justification for this disregard on the part of the foreign minister of a report coming from a member of the Cabinet, particularly when one considers the circumstances under which the report was given -- the Kahan commission states. In his capacity as foreign minister, one would have expected him to be sensitive and alert to the words of another minister. The foreign minister should at least have directed the attention of the defense minister to the report he received from Minister Tzipori, and not just make do with the question he posed to somebody in his office.

As may be recalled, Foreign Minister Shamir inquired in his office whether any new reports had arrived from Beirut. The commission writes that, in its opinion, the foreign minister erred in that he did not take any action after his telephone conversation with Minister Tzipori. The Kahan commission states that Foreign Minister Shamir explained his reaction to Minister Tzipori's remarks by saying that he had known that Tzipori had for a long time and consistently objected to cooperation with the Phalangists, and had also been known in the Cabinet for being a constant critic of the actions of the defense minister and the chief of staff. Nevertheless, the commission states, it cannot rule out the possibility that the foreign minister did not absorb or properly realize the significance of the things he heard from Minister Tzipori.

More on Commission

TA081133 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The commission of inquiry states that the head of the Mosad should not be held responsible for the Mosad's concept that the Phalangists were reliable and could be trusted, because he assumed his post only 2 days before Bashir al-Jumayyil was assassinated. The members of the commission also believe the testimony of the head of Mosad that he had heard about the entry of the Phalangists only on Thursday evening. Although the head of Mosad should have expressed his opinion about the risks entailed in the activities of the Phalangists, a severe reaction is not called for due to the fact that he did not express any opinion.

Referring to the defense minister's aide, Avi Duda'i, the Kahan commission states that it could not determine whether he had received a report on Friday about 300 dead in the camps. The doubts stem from contradictions in the testimonies of the witnesses because those witnesses, who alleged that Duda'i had been handed the report, had an interest in proving that they had fulfilled their duty.

Finally, the commission determined that direct responsibility for the massacre lies with the Phalangists.

Yaron Comments

TA080843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0828 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Report by correspondent Daliya Ya'iri from outside chief paratroop and infantry commander Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron's home -- live]

[Text] Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron refuses for the time being to be interviewed by the media. At the same time, he agreed to tell me that he finds it hard to understand the contradiction with that portion of the report where the commission commends him. Referring to 'Amos, the report contains the following excerpt: He admitted with commendable candor that in this incident there was obtuseness on his part and on that of other people in the system. As we have stated before, the commission states in its report that Brig Gen Yaron's aspiration had been to spare the IDF soldiers from carrying out operations in the camps, and apparently there lies the main reason for his obtuseness regarding the threat of a massacre in the camps.

This concern of a commander for the well-being of his soldiers would have been commended under different circumstances.

As I said before, 'Amos Yaron finds it hard to understand the contradiction between this paragraph and that other part where the commission rules that he cannot hold a command post in the IDF.

Having known 'Amos Yaron for some 25 years, I find it hard not to deviate from the rule about impartial journalistic reporting. I would like to point out that 'Amos Yaron has been holding command posts in the IDF for some 25 years, and has only served in that kind of post. 'Amos's wife, Ilana, says that she has never seen him in such a mood as today.

At this moment, Brig Gen Yaron is leaving for the chief of staff's office.

Ministers, Coalition Stands

TA081141 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1109 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- live]

[Text] About 2 hours are left before the convening of the extraordinary Cabinet session, which is supposed to make decisions which will determine the fate of this government and especially that of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. The facts at the moment are as follows:

The National Religious Party [NRP] ministers informed the prime minister that they insist that Minister Sharon place the defense portfolio in Menahem Begin's hands, thus resigning from his position, and remain a Cabinet member with the status of minister without portfolio. Our proposal is reasonable and moral, I was told by a senior NRP source. The NRP ministers presented this demand firmly, and it was possible to understand from them that if their demand is not accepted, they may draw conclusions regarding their continued participation in the coalition.

Also, prominent Herut and liberal ministers believe that Ari'el Sharon should take this step as a way out of the crisis in which the government now finds itself as a result of the Kahan commission's conclusions and recommendations.

The Agudat Yisra'el faction, in contrast, announced it puts its confidence in Ari'el Sharon and does not demand his resignation. As far as is known, the defense minister is not inclined to comply with this demand. The commission's report is not favorable for the prime minister and the entire Cabinet, and in Sharon's opinion, the Cabinet should shoulder the results as one.

The ministers are all united in the opinion that the Cabinet should act and make a decision today, and not leave the arena open for the opposition and for outside pressure. The coalition partners are also of the opinion that the elections should not be advanced against the background of the Kahan commission conclusions.

The prime minister has been in his office all day long. He met the defense minister for a short talk in private, and as far as is known, Begin told Sharon he does not intend to dismiss him from his position.

Another report we received from Bonn: The foreign minister has decided to shorten his stay abroad and will return to Israel tomorrow after his visit to Germany, while postponing the scheduled visits to Belgium and Luxembourg.

The foreign minister spoke about this with the prime minister. Indignation was expressed among the foreign minister's entourage about the way the conclusions about Minister Shamir were transmitted in the communications media. Sources close to Minister Shamir told me that he was not reprimanded by the commission and that the conclusions talk about an error, nothing else.

Here at the prime minister's office, we are trying to continue to follow events. Every crumb of information turns into an issue for interpretation.

This was the case when Dr Yohanan Bader [a jurist and close friend of Begin] left the prime minister's office. How did you find Menahem Begin? I asked him. His answer: I did not come to give him advice but to receive the report. How is he? I also asked. His response: He was strongest about 50 years ago when he left the Soviet jail. However, I persisted: How is he today? His answer, with a little smile: Like 30 years ago.

HADASH: No-confidence Motion

TA081047 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1042 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] A few minutes ago, the HADASH faction in the Knesset submitted a motion of no-confidence in the government in the wake of the findings of the commission of inquiry into the massacre in Beirut. Our correspondent in the Knesset Sha'ul Stav, reports that the initiative of HADASH has aroused bitterness among Alignment Knesset members. The latter are trying to persuade HADASH to call off the motion of no-confidence. The most unwise thing to do now is to submit a motion of no-confidence in the government, Alignment members said.

Alignment Reactions

TA080730 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Feb 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Sara Honig]

[Text] Coalition and Alignment MK's have been told by their party leaders not to react individually to the Kahan commission's findings. They have also been told not to grant interviews to the media until their leaders have decided on a reaction.

Aides to Prime Minister Menahem Begin are reported to be counselling him to react quickly to the report and not to allow his opponents time to attack him without the public hearing his point of view. This, it is felt, was an error he made immediately after the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

The government will have a chance to study the report for nearly a day before its official publication. The press will be given a half-day notice of the impending publication. Parts of it will be withheld from publication for reasons of national security, but all the recommendations regarding the public figures involved will be published.

Sources close to the prime minister told THE JERUSALEM POST last night that Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and Deputy Prime Minister David Levi will not be going abroad today as originally planned.

It is also possible that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, now on a state visit to Germany, will be called back today. He is one of the nine persons who have been warned by the commission that he may be harmed by its findings.

The special Cabinet meeting today is expected tc be followed by consultations among the ministers to decide on a common government position in regard to the report, as well as to decide which of the report's recommendations will be accepted and adopted by the government.

The activists in the Alignment openly hope for as damning a report as possible. It is the only hope of the supporters of party chairman Shim'on Peres to bring down the government and form an alternative coalition without elections.

Reliable Labour sources said last night that Peres asked Labour MK's not to comment as soon as the first details of the report are made public.

Peres, it is said, wants to prevent a backlash in which the public will accuse the Labour Party of making political capital out of the report. The fear in Labour is that an extreme over-reaction would be more damaging to the party than to the government. This is especially so in view of the fact that Likud sources report that in the event of a damaging commission report, Begin will attempt to bring about early elections, arguing that he wishes to bring the matter to the judgement of the public and ask for a renewed vote of confidence.

This is a turn of events which Labour would like to avoid for fear that an election campaign, would result in a considerable Likud victory.

Labour would like to keep as low a profile as possible, so that it will be able to woo the Likud's coalition partners away and form an alternative coalition with them, without antagonizing the supporters and voters of those parties, most of whom prefer Begin as prime minister.

PRESS ON KAHAN COMMISSION, SHARON, LEBANON

TA080727 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0435 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] DAVAR says that before the commission of inquiry's report has been released, it is both too early and too late to deal with its contents. However, its very existence calls for an opinion to be expressed. A judicial commission of inquiry enjoys special status in Israel: The government appoints it but, at least formally, it does not have to accept its recommendations. However, these recommendations carry immense public weight. A government ignoring them would be perjuring the institution it had appealed to and would be making a mockery of normal government procedures. Whoever claims that by adopting the recommendations of a commission of inquiry about the government's performance and decisions, the legal branch would be interfering with the executive branch, is both wrong and misleading. This always holds true and it is even truer in the affair of Sabra and Shatila since serious events, and not just political decisions, were probed. The current government has supplied sufficient reasons to demand its replacement, even if the events in Sabra and Shatila had not come into being. It got the country and the army involved in an unfortunate and unnecessary war -- as the paper phrases it -- and a way out of it and of our presence in a hostile country is not yet in the offing. It has wasted political assets which had been accumulated through many laborious years in exchange for a false vision of a forceful solution of elementary political problems. It has made fraud and amateurism into daily norms of government which corrupt public atmosphere. The paradox of the last 4 months is that the waiting period for the Kahan commission's report provided the Begin government with an excuse to remain in power for the time being. Now, the period of grace has come to an end.

HA'ARETZ writes that if the defense minister now believes that Israel owes nothing to the Christians, this recognition has come very late. If the world lays hands on photographs of the Christian quarter in 'Alayh and the burned and plundered homes of the Christians, we might again be blamed for it. We claimed that the IDF had put an end to the era of the civil war in Lebanon. So how are we going to explain its resumption? We must get out of a maze which we are unable to unravel. We must cease adhering to the concept that only the implementation of a new order in the whole of Lebanon will assure the well-being of the Galilee. We must look for a less pretentious way to achieve our objectives.

THE JERUSALEM POST writes that for the time being, despite the progress reported at Khaldah yesterday, it appears the government is tending to fall back on the alternative plan for a security belt in southern Lebanon. This, of course, would spell the effective partition of the country into Israeli and Syrian spheres of influence. Only there, too, there are considerable difficulties. For the direct base of Israel's chosen instrument, Major Haddad, is confined to the small Christian minority in the south. The effort to enlarge the base through the recruitment of the majority Shi'ites is still not assured success. In the meantime, the passage of time alone seems to be eroding Israel's ability to salvage some durable gains from the unravelling of its hopes for Lebanon.

REPORT ON REACTION TO REAGAN'S 'HARSH LANGUAGE'

TA080926 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Feb 83 p 6

[Report by Refa'el Mann and Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] President Ronald Reagan last night leveled harsh criticism at Israel's refusal to withdraw from Lebanon, and charged that it is thus hindering the pullout of all foreign forces from that country. Reagan used harsher language than in the past, and directed his criticism exclusively at Israel without making similar charges against Syria and the PLO. The President's remarks were greeted with amazement in Jerusalem.

"Israel is unnecessarily hindering the pullout of foreign forces from Lebanon," Reagan stated in a meeting with television correspondents in Washington. He charged that the other forces in Lebanon are abstaining from withdrawing from Lebanon as long as Israel refuses "to make a gesture of goodwill" by withdrawing its own forces.

Reagan's remarks reflected the frustration of the administration's top echelon about the slowness in the negotiations on the withdrawal of foreign forces, which is the key to achieving the withdrawal of the Syrian and PLO forces.

Political sources in Jerusalem regard the timing of the President's statement -- on the eve of the release of the commission of inquiry's findings -- as an intentional attempt to harm the Israeli Government and the man heading it, at a sensitive time for it.

Jerusalem is also bitter about the move of the U.S. President, who for the first time publicly accused Israel of "occupying" Lebanese territory, a move which might exacerbate the atmosphere of crisis between Washington and Jerusalem.

U.S. Special Ambassador Philip Habib is scheduled to arrive in Jerusalem this evening. He will confer with the prime minister tomorrow. It is assessed in Jerusalem that Philip Habib is bringing along a sharp message from President Reagan similar in tone to his remarks yesterday.

ISRAELI, LEBANESE TALKS CONTINUE 8 FEBRUARY

TA081109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1050 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Let us go over to Khaldah in Lebanon where the subcommittees of the negotiating delegations of Israel, Lebanon, and the United States are conferring today. Special attention is given to today's meeting, of course. Roni Daniyel reported to us from Khaldah a few minutes ago:

[Begin Daniyel recording] Yesterday, even before the release of the Kahan commission's conclusions was known in Khaldah, it was decided to hold a short day of deliberations here today, and to judge by the atmosphere prevailing now, nobody regrets this. Both the IDF officers and the Foreign Ministry officials are glued to the radio, to all newscasts, and to every bit of information they can get.

I tried to reach the Sabra and Shatila neighborhoods today. Entrance was forbidden, with the Lebanese expalining that it was agreed that Israeli civilians are not allowed in this area.

During the talks themselves, the Americans and Lebanese reveal a great deal of interest in the commission's conclusions, repeatedly asking about the fate of the defense minister.

The Israeli delegation arrived here today with less members than usual and this gave rise to a wave of peculiar interpretations. The absence of Avraham Tamir, the defense minister's assistant on national security affairs from the negotiations team today is due to the arrival of the Zairian defense minister in Israel today, but the Lebanese do not accept this explanation as a certainty. [end recording]

PERES REJECTS NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

TA081013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1008 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres says that the Alignment does not intend to suggest any deals to the government in the wake of the commission of inquiry's findings. MK Peres emphasized that speculation about the establishment of a national unity government are totally unfounded. Peres was talking with our correspondent Razi Barqay in reaction to forecasts raised this morning by both opposition and coalition Knesset members that a national unity government would be established.

The Knesset is almost empty now. A few Alignment Knesset members in the building refuse to comment. The Alignment faction executive will convene within 2 hours.

'HIGH-RANKING' SOVIET TO VISIT ARAB STATES

TA061315 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Informed sources in Amman reported today that a high-ranking Soviet figure would visit Jordan and other Arab states soon. The report did not identify the Soviet figure, but it has been speculated that he is Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov.

FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BONN FOR TALKS

For West German and Israeli reportage on Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's arrival in Bonn on 6 February and subsequent meetings with FRG President Carstens, Chancellor Kohl, Foreign Minister Genscher, and leading politicians from all parties, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 7 February and subsequent issues of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN BORDER REPORTEDLY REOPENED

LD041646 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Rabat, 4 Feb (KUNA) -- According to press reports published here today, the Alergian-Moroccan borders have been opened following a long closure caused by differences between the two countries over the Saharan issue. The Moroccan weekly paper AT-TAHADDI quoted sources described as "private" as saying that citizens of the two countries can now cross the border freely. Arab diplomatic sources pointed out that covert and intensive contacts have been taking place between the two countries. They told KUNA that M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, recently paid a secret visit to Algeria.

Leader of the Moroccan opposition 'Abdelati [name as received] Bouabid said preparations are being made for a meeting between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Moroccan King Hassan II, to take place on the Algerian-Moroccan border. It was learned from reliable sources that a date has been fixed this month for this meeting but the sources declined to name the exact date.

LIBYA

ARAB OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS ISSUE STATEMENT

LD061130 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Feb (JANA) -- The pan-Arab conference of the Arab homeland opposition movements and popular organizations concluded its work last night.

The conference, held in the Jamahiriyah in response to the pan-Arab initiative of the brother leader of the revolution to draw a new combative strategy to confront the psychologically and militarily defeated Arab reality, issued a statement. The following is the text of the statement:

The conference of the Arab homeland opposition forces, popular organizations, and movements of armed struggle held in Tripoli 1-5 February 1983 was attended by 350 members representing 135 organizations from various arenas in the Arab homeland and the Mahjar [Arabs residing abroad] in response to the pan-Arab initiative of Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution. Its aim was to draw up a new combatant plan to confront the psychologically and militarily defeated Arab reality, to enable the Arab nation to repulse the Zionist death train that is supplied with American technology and financed by Arab reaction, and to start the counterattack.

At the conference the participants democratically debated and studied the following agenda:

1. The crisis of the pan-Arab liberation movement.

2. Defining the political line.

3. A program of action for confrontation.

The conferees decided on the following:

1. Concerning the crisis of the Arab liberation movement, the conference has decided that the pan-Arab liberation movement is suffering a sharp and grave crisis in the areas of ideology, organization, democracy, and in the behavior of the masses. Because of the gravity of this crisis, the conferees have decided to call a specialized seminar of patriotic, progressive, and revolutionary Arab personalities to discuss this crisis in all its aspects.

The results of this seminar are to be submitted to an upcoming special conference, which will study these results and draw up practical plans to enable the Arab nation to emerge from the crisis, to fulfill its combatant tasks, to wrest the initiative from the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary enemy, and to fulfill the tasks of this stage of liberation, democracy, unity, and socialism.

The conference recommends that the permamemt secretariat of the Arab peoples conference make preparations to follow up this seminar.

2. The political line: The conference has decided on the following political line:

1. The Arab nation's conflict with the Zionist enemy is a conflict of existence, not one of borders and not of the possibility of a settlement or coexistence between them. The existence of one is diametrically opposed to the existence of the other.

2. Employing the rifle and armed struggle is the only path for the liberation of Palestine and all occupied Arab territories. The popular liberation war, the mobilization of the Arab masses, and building genuine democracy are the most important principles that should be supported and developed.

The conference stresses the immortal precept of the pan-Arab hero Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir: What is taken by force can only be restored by force. The conference also adheres to the slogan: No peace, no negotiations, no recognition of the Zionist enemy, and no relinguishing the pan-Arab cause.

3. The conference specifically points to imperialism, Zionism, and reaction as the archenemy of the Arab nation; the nature and aims of this enemy are diametrically opposed to the nature and the aims of the forces of liberation and progress in the Arab homeland and there is no option but to have a confrontation with them.

4. Proceeding from the fact that the Palestine question is a pan-Arab cause from which hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, Egyptians, Syrians, Lebanese and others from the sons of the Arab nation had been martyed and in view of the pan-Arab responsibility, the conference declares its rejection of all capitulationist projects that seek to recognize the Zionist entity, its rejection of the Camp David accords and the attempt taking place to extend them, its rejection of European initiatives and the Reagan plan, and its rejection and condemnation of the Fes summit conference resolutions. It also stresses its rejection of the autonomous administrative project and civil administration that the Zionist enemy is trying to impose. The conference has decided on a struggle using all means to foil these. The conference calls for a confrontation of all attempts aimed at finding an alternative or a partner to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In this respect the conference stresses its rejection of the attempts of Arab reaction to give proxy to the Jordanian regime or the Egyptian regime. The conference declares that the main purpose of the Arab masses' struggle is the complete liberation of Palestinian national soil and the establishment of a democratic state on it.

It stresses the unity of the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people to return, to self-determination, and to the unconditional establishment of an independent national state. It also stresses its support for an independent Palestinian charter to face reactionary pressures aimed at removing the organisation from its vanguard combatant position in the pan-Arab liberation movement, and on adherence to the civilized and humanitarian posture of the Arab nation, which does not discriminate between religions and creeds. The conference, in facing the racist, fascist Zionism that occupies Palestine and threatens pan-Arab existence, declares it condemnation of any contacts with Israeli organizations and individuals, and calls for stopping these contacts regardless of the slogans they raise and the concepts they put forward so long as they approve and recognize the Zionist usurper of the land of Palestine.

3. Program of Action.

The conference stresses that the Zionist invasion of Lebanon has exposed the reality of the tragic Arab conditions from the ocean to the Gulf, the treachery of the reactionary regimes, the impotence of the national regimes, and the failure of the popular organizations to confront the escalating imperialist-Zionist-reactionary assault, a matter which is threatening the pan-Arab existence -- not only the Palestinian question -- as an objective result of the division, regionalism, lack of democracy, absence of Arab unity, absence of the masses, and deprivation of their authority. Arab opposition is, therefore, called upon to change this reality, to lead the masses to authority and not to remain as a democratic justification for the regimes. The conference has decided the following:

1. To adopt the form of armed struggle in the arenas and positions that guarantee the effectiveness of this form, providing that the pan-Arab liberation movement extends material and moral support to this form; and to impel it to become a reality facing the agent regimes and the Zionist existence in Arab territories.

2. To form pan-Arab fedayeen companies.

3. To struggle with all means against U.S. military bases and the Rapid Deployment Forces in the Arab homeland, in Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Oman, the Peninsula, the Gulf, and Lebanon.

4. To step up a pan-Arab fund for popular struggle financed by progressive states, popular and vocational organizations, movements, parties, and individuals in the Arab homeland.

5. The pan-Arab liberational movement, under the leadership of and prompted by the popular masses, must isolate and eliminate capitulationist policies, practices, and ideas using various means to foil them including demonstrations, sit-ins, popular boycotts, economic and culture means, and by preventing visits and meetings connected with revisionism and capitulationism.

6. In order to implement this form of struggle the revolutionary opposition forces in various Arab countries must be expanded and their combat programs developed through all possible forms of coalitions [jabhawiyah] to achieve unity and coordination between them in confronting imperialism, Zionism, and reaction, to intensify popular rejection of reactionary policies; to escalate the struggle for reform on the basis of serious struggle for democratic freedoms and social progress in the Arab homeland and against the motives for division and the forces of regionalism, in thought and in practice; and to push forward and to achieve Arab unity.

The conference has also decided the following:

1. To call on the steadfastness and confrontation forces to draw up an Arab confrontation plan, with the necessary elements, against Zionist invasion.

2. To devote all resources to support the stance of the Syrian Arab Republic in its confrontation and challenges to the Zionist enemy and capitulationist solutions; to salute the sacrifices of the Syrian Arab people and their Armed Forces for the cause of the Arab nation in Palestine and Lebanon.

3. To support the struggle of the Lebanese patriots in their continuous confrontation for the liberation of Lebanon and to force an unconditional Israeli withdrawal. The conference salutes the enormous sacrifices of the Lebanese patriotic masses for the Palestinian revolution and the pan-Arab cause.

The conference also backs the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in its struggle against all capitaluationist schemes for the liberation of the whole Palestinian soil.

The conference salutes the Palestinian Arab people in their continuous struggle, especially the population of the occupied territory as it glorifies the heroic sacrifices that have been made and are being made against the Zionist occupation.

The conference delcares its principled stand on the side of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in its struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reaction, and capitulationist solutions.

It declares its stand on the side of Democratic Yemen against all plots being hatched by imperialism and reaction against it.

The conference announces its work to mobilize the masses on the national and pan-Arab levels against Arab reaction in order to foil its plans and halt its vicious assault, a matter that calls for coalition and wider support among all Arab sides opposed to reaction. The conference has, therefore, decided to extend all forms of backing for the Egyptian national forces and the national and pan-Arab forces in Iraq, Jordan, and Sudan, to the National Salvation Front in Somalia, and the Popular Liberation Front of Saqiyah al-Hamra and Rio de Oro, to stress their right to self-determination and to support the national and pan-Arab forces in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula.

The conference has decided to stand with the Moroccan progressive forces in their struggle against the reactionary regime of the agent king for democracy and social progress.

The conference salutes the struggle of the masses and its pan-Arab and progressive forces in their struggle against reaction and imperialism, extends backing and support for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and to all the national pan-Arab forces in the Arab homeland, because the overthrow of any reactionary regime in the Arab arena will contribute to correcting the imbalance of power between us and reaction.

The conference delcares its support and stand on the side of the popular revolution in Iran against the aggressive war waged by Saddam Husayn's regime, which has obstructed Iraq's and Iran's resources from contributing to repelling the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary assault.

The conference salutes and appreciates the efforts of backing and solidarity extended by the countries of the socialist community headed by the Soviet Union. It also salutes the democratic and liberational forces in the world for their stand with regard to the struggle with the Arab nation, and in particular with regard to the Palestinian and Lebanese question.

The conference also salutes the efforts of Arabs living abroad for the service of the causes of the Arab nation and calls for support for the organizations that work for this.

The conference has decided to work to support the Arab people's conference and its agencies on the path of developing its formation to include all the forces opposed to capitulationist solutions, and to attain the establishment of the popular progressive pan-Arab front in accordance with its charter.

The conference delegates the implementation of these decisions to the permanent secretariat of the Arab people's conference, and the forces of the pan-Arab liberation movement.

IRAQI 'OPPONENTS' ISSUE STATEMENT IN TRIPOLI

LD071010 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Feb (JANA) -- The Iraqi national, pan-Arab, and revolutionary forces yesterday held a comprehensive meeting in Tripoli.

The meeting of the forces opposed to Saddam Husayn at-Tikriti's regime crowned a series of meetings held during the period of convening the pan-Arab conference of opposition movements, popular organizations, and the armed struggle movements in the Arab homeland, which ended its work the day before yesterday.

The text of the statement issued by the Iraqi national, pan-Arab, and revolutionary forces reads as follows:

In order to bring down the fascist agent regime in Iraq and to set up a democratic regime to solve the dilemmas under which the Iraqi people are suffering...

Owing to the perils threatening the Arab national existence and the importance of restoring the Iraqi arena back to the pan-Arab struggle; and, as bringing down this fascist agent regime has become a revolutionary, national, and pan-Arab responsibility, the responsibility of the Iraqi masses, represented by their energetic forces; and, out of the Iraqi national, pan-Arab, and revolutionary forces' sense of their national and pan-Arab role...

The national parties, forces, and personalities have held a series of meetings, crowned by a comprehensive meeting on 6 February 1983 in Tripoli held at the time of the convocation of the conference of opposition parties and political forces in the Arab homeland, at which their will and the will of the Iraqi popular masses triumphed.

These national parties, forces, and personalities are:

The Arab Socialist Movement
The Kurdistan Socialist Party/Iraq
The Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Iraqi region leadership
People's Liberation Army Organization/Iraq
Democratic Party of Kurdistan
Democratic, Socialist, Unionist Federation
The Democratic Union of Kurdistan
Iraqi People's Congress
Iraqi Communist Party
People's Democratic Party of Kurdistan
Democratic Vanguard Movement/Iraq
Pan-Arab Socialist Congress
Iraqi Revolution Squads
Democratic Independents
The National Union of Kurdistan
Liberal Unionists Movement
Democratic Nationalists Organization/Turkman
Arab Socialist Labor Party/Iraq

They decided the following:

1. They made a final decision to unite as a broad national front which will remain open to Islamic revolutionary forces, and to national forces and personalities hostile to imperialism, Zionism, reaction, and America.

2. They agreed on a political program for the front, defined as follows:

A. To bring down the fascist agent regime in Iraq.

B. To set up a democratic, popular, and unionist regime.

C. To allow the Iraqi people to freely choose the system they want once the fascist agent regime has been toppled.

D. To grant genuine autonomy to Iraqi Kurdistan and to secure the rights of the Turkman and other minorities.

3. To hold a meeting on 25 February 1983 to lay down the front's program and rules.

4. To achieve a united front within 1 month of the signing of this statement.

5. The conference decided, beginning 6 February 1983:

A. To stop propaganda campaigns among themselves,

B. To stop disputes and armed clashes among each other.

Issued in Tripoli on 6 February 1983.

[Signed] 1. Arab Socialist Movement -- Jawad Dukh
2. Socialist Party/Iraq -- Dr Mibdir al-Lus
3. Socialist Party of Kurdistan/Iraq -- 'Abd al-Khaliq Muhammad Zangana
4. Arab Ba'th Socialist Party -- Fawzi ar-Rawi
5. People's Liberation Army/Iraq -- Salah ar-Rubay'
6. Democratic Party of Kurdistan -- Idris al-Brazani
7. Democratic, Socialist, Unionist Federation -- Muhammad al-Habubi
8. Democratic Union of Kurdistan -- 'Ali Sinjari
9. Iraqi People's Congress -- Hamid Maqsud
10. Iraqi Communist Party -- Naztha ad-Dilaymi
11. People's Democratic Party of Kurdistan -- Sami 'Abd ar-Rahman
12. Democratic Vanguard Movement/Iraq -- Ayad as-Si'aydi
13. Pan-Arab Socialist Congress -- 'Ali ad-Dilaymi
14. Iraqi Revolution Squads -- Staff Major General Hasan Mustafa and Captain Abdallah Akrabi
15. Democratic Independents -- Mudhaffar al-Nawwab
16. National Union of Kurdistan -- Dr Fuad Ma'sum
17. Liberal Unionists Movement -- Sarim Salih
18. Democratic Nationalists Organization of the Turkman -- 'Izzidin Qawjo
19. Arab Socialist Labor Party/Iraq -- Muhammad al-Badri

MOROCCO

FRENCH NEWSMAN EXPELLED FOR ARTICLE ON DLIMI

PM081307 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Feb 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Roland Delcour Expelled From Morocco"]

[Text] After 2 days of detention at the Rabat central police station, Roland Delcour was expelled from Morocco Sunday 6 February. The authorities criticized him for an article in LE MONDE on 2 February calling into question the official version of General Dlimi's death and wanted him to reveal his sources to them. Our correspondent's release late in the evening of Saturday, 5 February, was secured by the Elysee's intervention.

LE MONDE on Dlimi

PM081309 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Feb 83 p 3

[Unattributed report: "New Questions on General Dlimi's Death"]

[Text] The circumstances of General Ahmed Dlimi's death are still raising questions. For instance, according to a diplomatic source, on the day of the accident the general was due to spend the evening with his family in Settat, 130 km from Marrakesh. It was there that the family heard the news. One of the general's sons then immediately went to the scene but was unable to see his father's body. It was only shortly before the funeral in Rabat the next day that a closed casket was handed over to the family.

Furthermore, in Stockholm Mr Ahmed Rāmi, 36-year-old former aide de camp to the late General Oufkir, sentenced to death in absentia for taking part in plots against Hassan II, told Swedish television that Gen Dlimi "was planning a military action against the king." Mr Rami, a former lieutenant who gained Swedish nationality after taking refuge in Stockholm in 1973, explained that he had met Gen Dlimi "in Sweden 2 months ago."

On that occasion the latter apparently informed him of the operation planned for July, at the end of which "we would have put the king on trial." Finally Mr Rami stated that Gen Dlimi had been "eliminated" after the king had discovered that he belonged to a group of free officers named the "16 August Movement" after the date on which the royal Boeing was machinegunned in 1972.

Although this former soldier's statements should be taken with caution, the fact remains that we have just learned from a reliable source that officers from the Rabat-Sale airbase were arrested last week.

BANGLADESH'S ERSHAD DEPARTS AFTER VISIT

LD061443 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, chairman of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Council of Ministers, left Morocco this morning following an official 4-day visit.

In a statement the chairman of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Council of Ministers expressed his joy at the hospitality accorded to him and to the accompanying delegation throughout his stay in Morocco. He also praised the future prospects for Moroccan-Bangladesh relations, which are likely to strengthen existing cooperation between the two countries in various spheres. He also wished the Moroccan king, government, and people a prosperous future.

Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad was seen off at Rabat-Sale airport by Prime Minister Maati Bouabid, members of the government, members of the Arab and Islamic diplomatic corps and a number of senior civil and military personalities.

TUNISIA

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

LD041651 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1601 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Tunis, 4 Feb (KUNA) -- Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi today met with USSR Ambassador to Tunisia Vselovod Kizichenko.

Nothing has been revealed about the topics discussed, but an authorized source at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry confined himself to saying that the meeting took place at the Soviet ambassador's request.

ETHIOPIA

ERITREAN FRONT CLAIMS BASES DESTROYED, 70 KILLED

EA061724 Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Barka: Our heroic fighters have attacked two colonialist Ethiopian Army bases in (Fodal) and (Zimdena), in the environs of Barentu, and completely destroyed them. In this surprise attack, which took place 4 days ago, our heroic comrades killed over 70 enemy soldiers, wounded the same number, and captured 11. They also captured 130 heavy, medium, and light weapons and a quantity enemy bombs, ammunition, and provisions. Our heroic fighters also ambushed enemy reinforcements on their way from Barentu, killing and wounding 30 and forcing them to retreat without accomplishing their mission.

KENYA

KANU REGISTRATION 'POOR' IN MANDERA DISTRICT

EA071209 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Mandera District KANU branch chairman, Mr Abdi Hasan Haji, has expressed concern over poor registration of party members in the district since the exercise started. Mr Hasan said it was disappointing to note that some divisions registered about 10 people and called upon leaders to encourage Wananchi to enrol as party members. The KANU chairman appealed to civil servants in the district to register themselves as members in order to set a good example to the rest of the people. He also called on divisional leaders to get receipt books from the provincial administration and to ensure that Wanachi in all parts of the district were enrolled.

SOMALIA

FIGHTING AGAINST GOVERNMENT FORCES REPORTED

EA052210 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 5 Feb 83

[Text] Units of the 6th Colonel Irow Division of the DFSS [Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia] wing of the Somali opposition forces launched a surprise attack on the 3d Division of the forces still loyal to Muhamed Siad Barre stationed in (togdher) Region. The reports say that the Barre regime's forces are suffering heavy casualties and that the engagement is continuing.

Other reports reaching us from the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces say that fighters of that division continue to launch successive attacks on the 42d Battalion of the 5th Division still loyal to the dictatorial regime of Mohamed Siad Barre stationed near (Mataban) in (Ghel Gudut) Region. The reports add that the 9th General Aynanshe Division has broken the forward defense lines of the Barre forces, inflicting heavy casualties and destroying much equipment. The fighting continues.

Latest Attack Reported

EA072017 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] More details have been issued on the 4 February attack by Somali opposition forces on bases of troops still loyal to Siad Barre in (Togdher) region.

The latest reports from the battlefields say that 20 of Siad's fascist troops were killed and 16 taken prisoner. Many others were also wounded after the gallant Somali opposition forces launched a hit-and-run attack on the [word indistinct] base in Odweina District of (Toghder) Region.

The fighters also destroyed one tank, a number of vehicles, and ammunition stores belonging to the regime's troops. One opposition fighter was killed and four others wounded. One opposition vehicle mounted with a 166-mm artillery gun was also destroyed.

TANZANIA

KENYANS HELD ON CHARGE OF ILLEGAL ENTRY

EA071908 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Seven Kenyans appeared in court today charged with unlawful entry into Tanzania. The court was told that the seven Kenyan nationals -- four civilians and three former members of the disbanded Kenyan Air Force -- were found in Dar es Salaam between last November and January this year without passports or permits authorizing them to enter Tanzania. All the accused denied the charge and claimed that they had come to Tanzania to seek political asylum.

The chief resident magistrate, Ndugu (Masanche), ordered the accused to remain in custody until 21 February when the case comes up for hearing.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR ARRIVES FOR 4-DAY VISIT

AB071348 Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam, Feb 7 (AFP) -- United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived here today from Zimbabwe on a four-day official visit for talks with Tanzanian officials.

Mr Perez de Cuellar, who is in Tanzania during an eight-nation African tour, was to meet Foreign Minister Salim Ahmed Salim today and was expected to hold talks with President Julius Nyerere tomorrow.

UGANDA

AUTHORITIES ARREST 200 'MASQUERADING' AS SOLDIERS

LD042124 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Feb 83

[Text] Ugandan authorities have announced that more than 200 men masquerading as soldiers have been arrested in a crackdown against bandits and antigovernment guerrillas infiltrating military ranks. Announcing this, Ugandan Vice-President Paulo Muwanga said that more than 70 automatic weapons have been recovered by loyal security forces in the internal investigation that started about 2 weeks ago. He added that the 200 men arrested were also dressed in military uniforms and in some cases had even joined army units in sweeps against bandits and antigovernment guerrillas.

GHANA

AFP: ALMOST 800,000 HAVE RETURNED FROM NIGERIA

AB071916 Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Accra, Feb 7 (AFP) -- Almost 800,000 Ghanaians have so far returned to their country after being expelled from Nigeria, official sources said here today. Commodore Steve Obimpeh, responsible for repatriating Ghanaians affected by the Nigerian crackdown on illegal immigrants on January 17, said today that the number of refugees was between 700,000 and 800,000 and that more than 250,000 had passed through the Ghanaian capital on the way back to their native towns and villages. The former Ghanaian Navy head said that the worst was over and that in the last few days all the refugees had been reunited with their relatives. "They know where to go. They have relatives and even houses. We cannot say they are refugees," he said, adding that the government would help the returning Ghanaians to resettle.

Commodore Obimpeh said that yesterday some 500 Ghanaians arrived by road through Aflao, on the border with Togo. Aflao is Ghana's only border post to have been reopened temporarily to allow the migrant workers through, after being closed last September to control smuggling. He added that two boats yesterday brought 8,000 people from Lagos to Ghana and that two more had left to bring the remaining Ghanaians home.

Mr Obimpeh said that all the illegal Ghanaian immigrants had left the Nigerian capital itself, but that there were still "a few pockets" left in the areas surrounding Lagos. He said that 300 of these were expected to pass through Aflao today. Sources here said that the prospects of a second wave of returning immigrants were exaggerated.

More on Evacuation

AB072049 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] More than 1 million people deported from Nigeria have so far been evacuated. Commenting on the exercise, the commander of the task force on evacuation, Commodore Obimpeh, said the first phase of the exercise has been completed because vehicles sent to Aflao and Benin at the weekend to convey some of the returnees returned empty. Commodore Obimpeh said it is believed that some 600 Ghanaians are still in Lagos area because they are unable to pay their fares to the port to join ships to Ghana. He said his office is in touch with the Ghana High Commission in Lagos to provide them with transport back home. He said the Ministries of Health and Rural Development and Cooperatives will be in charge of the distribution of drugs and food to the returnees. Personnel of the UN office in Ghana and the Red Cross will also be involved in the exercise. Commodore Obimpeh announced that the final phase of the exercise will be rehabilitation and development of the returnees. He, however, said care is being taken to remove all the bottlenecks before the final details are made public.

Committee To Handle Deportees

AB071839 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] The government has set up a national coordinating committee to work on the deportees from Nigeria. An official statement issued in Accra this evening said the formation of the committee is a shift of emphasis from the crisis of evacuation and repatriation, which was a limited operation, to the long-term aim of rehabilitation and reintegration of the deportees in the interest of the stability of the society.

The statement said the committee is concerned that the intermediate system constituted to ensure the achievement of its objectives worked with the greatest efficiency at every level of the process. These levels are at the ports and entry points and at the reception centers both in Accra and other districts.

The committee has the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] coordinator, Mr P.V. Obeng, as chairman. Other members are the coordinators of the national task force for evacuation and repatriation, the relief supplies management committee, and the mobilization and rehabilitation committee. The UNDP resident representative in Ghana, in his role as coordinator of the international relief efforts, is also a member. The Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning, Interior and Foreign Affairs are represented on the committee.

EMBASSY ASKS REMAINING GHANAIANS TO LEAVE

AB071533 Paris AFP in English 1508 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Lagos, Feb 7 (AFP) -- The Ghanaian High Commission (embassy) here today called on all Ghanaians who had not left Nigeria under the explusion order to do so immediately. A High Commission spokesman said that anyone who tried to stay would only cause problems. Two ships were still in the Port of Lagos ready to embark the stragglers, he added.

The spokesman said that more than half a million Ghanaians had left Nigeria following the decision by the government here to expel all illegal aliens. He did not think that many remained. The spokesman said that he was "quite satisfied" with the way the massive exodus had proceeded, but there had been an enormous amount of luck. The High Commission knew of only six deaths from illness or fatigue, but it had not been informed of the drowning of six more people in the port, which had been reported on Nigerian television. The spokesman also praised Nigerian aid in laying on 23 trucks to transport the refugees and providing Ghanaian medical posts at the port and airport with supplies. Flights from Laogs to Accra were now half empty, he added.

The High Commission expects to have two major problems: obtaining the wages of Ghanaians who left before being paid by their employers, and repatriating a large number of possessions which had been left behind.

LIBERIA

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY ROUNDING UP ILLEGAL ALIENS

AB080916 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] After criticizing Nigeria for expelling illegal immigrants in that country, the Liberian authorities have rounded up many illegal aliens in the country and charged them with illegal residence, leading wandering life and falsification of citizenship. Those rounded up include nationals of Guinea, Mali, the Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone.

According to the country's immigration commissioner, Mr Edwin Tay, some of the aliens arrested have paid fines of up to $1,000 and are being allowed to continue their stay in the country.

Earlier, the Liberian head of state, Mr Samuel Doe, had criticized the explusion, of hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants in Nigeria. He said the action by the Nigerian authorities would only drive a deeper wedge into the prospects of African unity and undermine the foundations of ECOWAS.

MALI

COMMUNIQUE ON CPSU DELEGATION VISIT ISSUED

AB032126 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 3 Feb 83

[Joint communique on visit of CPSU party delegation led by Kuanyshev Orazbek to Mali from 28 January to 4 February, issued in Bamako on 3 February]

[Text] Within the framework of implementing the terms of the cooperation agreement between the CPSU and the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM], an important CPSU delegation led by His Excellency Kuanyshev Orazbek undertook an official, friendly visit to the Republic of Mali from 28 January to 4 February 1983. During the meeting between General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the UDPM and president of the republic, and His Excellency Kuanyshev Orazbek and his delegation, His Excellency Kuanyshev Orazbek conveyed to President Moussa Traore brotherly greetings from His Excellency Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Soviet delegation visited Segou, Sanzana, Markala, Selingue, and Kalana, where it visited several work places and Malian economic units, especially in the villages. It held talks with the executive members of the Segou branch of the UDPM. During these visits, the Soviet delegation was welcomed warmly and enthusiastically, a sign of the excellent, friendly and solid relations existing between the CPSU and the UDPM. The Soviet delegation expressed its great satisfaction with the economic and social places it visited.

Meetings were held between His Excellency Kuanyshev Orazbek, member of the CPSU Central Committee and His Excellency Djibril Diallo, political secretary of the UDPM. Present at the meetings were, on the Soviet side: (Kudrachev Valentin), head of the department for organizational work; (Korengyesev Eugene), head of the department for international relations; Fazylov Malik, USSR ambassador to Mali, (Katyshin Ogen), counselor of the USSR Embassy in Mali; Serogina Sergei, sectional head of Radio Moscow; on the Malan side were; Bouille Siby, first secretary for organization of the Central Executive Bureau [BEC], Mohamadoun ag Mahami, BEC secretary for external relations; Iianzie Bolezogola, BEC secretary for information and culture; Mamadou Togo, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; and Abderrahmane Toure, personal undersecretary of the political secretary.

During the working meetings, the two delegations emphasized the excellent relations between the Soviet and Malian people, parties, and governments. They expressed their firm determination to combat all retrograde forces in order that peace, security, and social progress in the world may triumph. The two delegations vehemently condemned imperialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, and Zionism. The Soviet delegation appreciated the successes of the Malian people, their party, the UDPM, and their government in their fight against the aftereffects of colonization for the better fulfillment of the indispensable tasks for the well-being of Malian people. The CPSU delegation acquainted itself with deep interest and true satisfaction with the activities of the UDPM leaders in implementing resolutions made at its congresses. It also appreciates the efforts aimed at dynamizing the party and raising its leading role to ensure the building of a state of national democracy and an independent, planned national economy.

The Malian delegation reasserted its joy and satisfaction with the achievements of the Soviet people in the building of a communist society and the tenacious efforts being made by these people under the high guidance of the CPSU, its Central Committee and its general secretary, His Excellency Yuriy Andropov.

The two parties expressed their common desire to renew their bilateral cooperation. They therfore decided to broaden in the normal way the objectives defined by their political policies and their relations in the political, economic, cultural, and social spheres for the benefit of the two peoples on the basis of equality and mutual advantages. The two parties expressed satisfaction with the positive evolution of relations between the CPSU and the UDPM. They also expressed satisfaction with the high level of cooperation between the two parties and agreed to consolidate and strengthen these relations.

Analyzing the situation in Africa, the two parties highly concerned themselves with the situation prevailing in southern Africa and the Western Sahara. On the Namibian problem, the parties reiterated their support for the struggle of the Namibian people under the guidance of their only legal representative, SWAPO. The two parties condemned the maneuvers of the Pretoria regime aimed at delaying and jeopardizing UN Security Council Resolution 435. The two parties condemned the crimes and barbaric attacks by the racist South Africans on the People's Republic of Angola, Mozambique, and other African countries and they demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the invasion forces from the lands they are occupying. Finally, they appealed to the international community to give its political, moral, and material support to the South African people in their struggle for liberation from the oppressive yoke of the racist South African regime.

In regard to the situation prevailing in the Western Sahara, the two parties renewed their support for the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the OAU on the right to self-determination of the Western Sahara people.

The Soviet delegation praised the personal efforts of Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the UDPM and president of the Republic of Mali, aimed at preserving unity and understanding within the African continental organization. The two parties emphasized the importance of the eminently positive role of the OAU in its support for the struggle of the African people and its contribution toward strengthening the action of African countries to eliminate colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, and apartheid.

The two parties condemned the invasion of Lebanon and the odious massacres of the Palestinian and Lebanese people by the Zionist troops and agreed that fair and long-lasting peace cannot be established in that region unless there is a total and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist troops from occupied Arab lands and respect for the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, especially the right to form an independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their only authentic representative.

On other international problems elsewhere in the world, the two parties condemned the imperialist policy of the arms race and expressed concern with the increase in tension and the danger it represents for world peace. The Malian party praised the initiatives in favor of world peace and halting the arms race contained in the message of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet on 20 December 1982 to parliaments, governments, political parties, and people of the world and hoped that this example would be followed by other powers.

The two delegations expressed satisfaction with the outcome of this visit which highlights the deep and sincere friendship between the Russian and Malian peoples, governments, and parties. The CPSU delegation expressed its gratitude to the Malian people and their party for the warm welcome they received in Mali. The CPSU delegation said it would be happy to receive a UDPM delegation very soon in accordance with the timetable drawn up by the two parties.

Signed in Bamako on Thursday, 3 February 1983, by Djibril Diallo, UDPM political secretary on behalf of the Republic of Mali, and Kuanyshev Orazbek, leader of the Soviet delegation on behalf of the CPSU.

NIGERIA

300 GHANAIANS REMAIN IN APAPA PORT AWAITING SHIP

AB071539 Lagos NAN in English 1534 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Lagos, Feb 7 (NAN) -- One week after the expiration of the quit order on aliens to leave the country, about 300 Ghanaians were still occupying a part of the Apapa Port complex. A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) who visited the port today reported that the aliens were now occupying Shed 14 which is classified as security zone of the port.

Some of the aliens complained that their inability to meet the deadline was a result of the non-payment of their salaries by their employers. An official of the Apapa Port told NAN that the remaining aliens reported late for evacuation, but added that a ship sent by the Ghanaian Government was being expected today.

Meanwhile, normal business had resumed at Shed 12 and Shed 13 of the port after a two-week occupation by the aliens. Trailers were used by the port authority to clear the refuse left behind by the departing aliens.

DEBT PAYMENTS TO ISRAELI EXPORTERS DELAYED

TA071057 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 83 p 1

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Abram Tzohar]

[Text] The Nigerian Government and its Central Bank are holding back the transfer of tens of millions of dollars due to Israeli exporters who have business relations with Nigerian businessmen and companies. Several exporters have already gone to the insurance company involved in foreign trade risks demanding compensation. The insurance company would not comment. Business circles think the now-endangered Nigerian debts to Israeli exporters total over $30 million.

According to procedures, Nigerian importers pay for the goods by depositing the equivalent in local currency in Nigerian commercial banks. Upon receiving the Nigerian Central Bank's approval, the banks transfer the deposits in foreign currency to the exporters. For about a year, delays have been noticed in the authorizations by the Lagos Central Bank, but recently money transfers have stopped altogether.

The Nigerian debts to the Israelis are only a tiny section of their debts to exporters throughout the world who have ceased to be paid.

Israel exports to Nigeria mainly chemicals, medicines, agricultural products, and knowhow. Israeli exports to Nigeria in 1981 amounted to $61.9 million. It is estimated that exports in 1982 at most totalled some $50 million.

USSR TO INTRODUCE NEW AIR ROUTE FROM LAGOS

AB071605 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] The Soviet Union intends to introduce a new aircraft, the Ilyushin-86, into Nigeria to help convey Soviet experts handling the Jos rolling mill. She also plans to open a new air route from Lagos via Launda, Angola, to Moscow.

The Soviet ambassador in Nigeria, Mr V.V. Snegyrev, announced this in Lagos today when he paid a courtesy call on the minister of aviation, Alhaji M.H. Jega.

Replying, Alhaji Jega expressed satisfaction at the growing economic, cultural, and political ties between Nigeria and the Soviet Union.

SENEGAL

CAMPAIGN OPENS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

AB071740 Paris AFP in French 1539 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Dakar, 7 Feb (AFP) -- The electoral campaign for the presidential and legislative elections of 27 February 1983 began officially with meetings organized in Dakar and in the regions by the various parties contesting the elections. Eight of the fourteen political parties existing in Senegal are involved.

Three of the five candidates for the presidency -- outgoing President Abdou Diouf (Socialist Party), Mahjemout Diop (African Independence Party) and Abdoulaye Wade (Senegalese Democratic Party) -- for the first time used the 5 minutes alloted to them daily on both radio and television by the electoral code throughout the campaign. The two other candidates, Mamadou Dia (People's Democratic Movement) and Oumar Wone of the Senegalese People's Party, did not use their air time.

Similarly, the leaders of each party presented their programs for the legislative elections in the audio-visual media. The ruling Socialist Party has the lion's share since the electoral code allows it alone 21 minutes daily while all the other parties have an equal amount of air time all together, which the opposition did not fail to denounce once again.

Economic issues were examined in the various speeches. The opposition is denouncing the recession which affects almost every sector as well as foreign control over Senegal's economy. The Senegalese Socialist Party has, in turn, underlined the positive results of Abdou Diouf's 2 years in office and the beginning of economic revival.

The only daily paper in Dakar, LE SOLEIL, which is close to the government, gave wide coverage to the statements of the opposition parties and published many pictures of their meetings in its Monday issue.

UPPER VOLTA

OUEDRAOGO RECEIVES LIBYAN DELEGATION 7 FEB

AB072043 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Head of state Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo received this afternoon in audience the Libyan delegation which arrived this morning in Ouagadougou. The nine-man delegation was led by Colohel Massawud Abdel Affiz. The special envoy of the Libyan president to the head of state was accompanied by the charge d'affaires of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah Embassy in our country. The envoy of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who was introduced to the head of state by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Michel Kafando, came to deliver a message from the Libyan president to the head of state. The Libyan special envoy did not make any statement at the end of the audience.

We must state that the Libyan delegation is in our country within the framework of joint and equal consultations. It will have working sessions with Upper Voltan authorities on all subjects touching cooperation between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Upper Volta.

ANGOLA

UNITA ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF 324 DETAINEES

AB071323 Paris AFP in French 1248 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Lisbon, 7 Feb (AFP) -- UNITA -- an armed movement opposed to the regime in Luanda -- announced on Monday that it released 324 detainees, including a Brazilian and six Portuguese, during an attack against the Tari reeducation camp in south Kwanza Province.

In a communique that has reached the Lisbon bureau of AFP, UNITA stated that two other attacks took place on 1 February against the Culimahala River water storage installations near the town of Huambo (in the center of the country) and against a high tension cable near the town of Malange.

MOZAMBIQUE

FRELIMO MEETING REVIEWS PARTY ECONOMIC POLICY

EA071221 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] The third national meeting on party economic policy began in Maputo this morning to review the work carried out in the economic and social fields since the third congress.

Marcelino dos Santos, Frelimo Party Central Committee secretary for economic policy, who presided over the meeting, said at the opening session that the meeting would examine our present situation after taking into account what the Mozambican people's life has been like in the period between the third and the fourth congresses. Marcelino dos Santos said that the analysis of the work that would be done at the third national meeting on the party's economic policy must be clear and concrete.

High-ranking party and state officials at central and provincial levels participated in the meeting.

SOUTH AFRICA

TRANSKEI LEADER THREATENS TO FLUSH OUT KILLERS

MB071340 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 7 Feb 83

[Text] Transkei's prime minister has warned that his government will drop bombs to flush out alleged faction fighters in Pondoland. George Matanzima was commenting on the killing of 52 people in an ambush a week ago near Lusikisiki. Police are still searching the sense bush for those involved in the alleged faction fighting. Matanzima says his government will bomb the dense forests in the area to flush those responsible out if necessary.

LABOR PARTY LEADER ON OPPORTUNITIES OF REFORM

MB080540 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Feb 83

[Text] The leader of the Labor Party, the Reverend Allan Hendrickse, says the new constitutional proposals offer opportunities that cannot be ignored by the Coloreds.

Speaking at a public meeting in Alberton, he said the Coloreds could go on no longer without a voice. By taking part in the political reform process, proof was being given that the Labor Party was accepting the challenge to take the lead in this era of politics by negotiation. He said supporters of violence were doing to the country a disservice.

During the meeting the police had to remove people who were shouting slogans, distributing pamphlets and gathering in front of the stage. No one was arrested.

ZAMBIA

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES 'CRIPPLING' SALES TAX INCREASES

MB071814 Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 29 Jan 83 pp 1, 5

[Excerpts] The government yesterday announced a crippling budget in which prices of beer, tobacco, spirits and petrol have all gone up by the highest margin since independence.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Mundia warned Zambia's economy was in a shambles and the economic outlook for 1983 was gloomy.

A lot of hard work was needed if the economy was to recover from its malaise.

Following these measures the government hopes to raise an additional K35 million from clear beer. K4 million from opaque beer, K11 million from cigarettes, K500,000 from potable spirits, K5.2 million from petroleum products.

This year's budget was a reflection of Zambia's worsening economic position which had forced the government to take measures to widen the tax base, the premier said.

On customs duty, Mr Mundia said he would make adjustments to the existing customs tariff so it could reflect Zambia's international trade.

Of significant change would be the introduction and revision of duties on new and existing import items.

The changes were intended to give protection and preferential pricing to locally produced goods. The government hopes to raise K11.4 million. The changes are with immediate effect.

The prime minister said he would ask Parliament to repeal the legislation on the suspension of duty on sports goods.

There had been no revenue form the mines, which was the largest investment of the party and its government.

The state had decided that all minerals exported would be subjected to an export tax which has been pegged at four percent of the export value and the government hoped to raise K45 million.

This measure takes effect from April 1.

Sales tax has been adjusted to 15 percent.

The burden of raising revenue had been shifted to indirect taxation. For this the burden must be widely spread.

"It is my view that a lot of locally manufactured commodities which have not been subjected to sales tax do not deserve this treatment.

Taxable products had been revised to include many other and this would bring in an additional K5 million to the state.

To raise revenue, Mr Mundia said the government would introduce a road toll to be chargeable on all vehicles using the roads.

Toll bridges would be set up on all major roads and a fee to be levied would go towards the maintenance of the roads.

New procedures would be introduced for truckers entering Zambia which would require them to pay a fee on entry into the country and to pay for their fuel at specified stations in foreign exchange.

Stamp duty has been adjusted.

He said the measures he had taken might be considered unpalatable but had been dictated "by the harsh realities of our economic situation."

More on New Budget

MB071823 Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 29 Jan 83 p 1

[Excerpts] Zambians have no choice but to accept further personal hardships by reducing both public and private consumption to safeguard the nation's future, Prime Minister Mundia said yesterday.

The problems faced last year had worsened, particularly the balance of payments position, with external payments arrears increasing and as at December 31, 1982, the overall deficit was K546.5 million.

The subsidies have been reduced to K82.8 million compared with K153.4 million spent on subsidies last year.

Although the budgeted subsidies figure last year had been estimated at K8.896 million, it rose to K153.4 million because of imports of maize and delayed adjustment of retail prices of maize and fertiliser.

"While the case in 1982 was excusable, it must be realised that the more funds are spent on subsidies, the less there is for development and for essential services in 1983.

"I have provided for K82.8 million for subsidies, mainly to the agricultural sector and in particular, to keep the cost of fertiliser down.

But should there be shortfall in maize production this year, there would be need for further imports and this may clearly result in an increase in the eventual level of subsidy payments.

Recurrent expenditure for 1983 has been put at K1,246.15 million as against a lower last year's figure of K1,236.9 million.

The major allocations to individual ministries are:

About K103 million (Ministry of Health); K86.6 million (Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development); K65.9 million (Ministry of Higher Education); K60.8 million (Ministry of Works and Supply) and K47.3 million (Zambia Police in Home Affairs).

The allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development did not include subsidies.

The captial expenditure has been slashed from last year's figure of K331.6 million to only K250 million.

ZIMBABWE

PEREZ DE CUELLAR PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED

AB071401 Paris AFP in French 1401 GMT 6 Feb 83

[Text] Harare, 6 Feb (AFP) -- UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar said in Harare yesterday that southern Africa will become the scene of endless conflicts and a source of permanent tension similar to that in the Middle East if a solution is not found to the Namibian problem quickly.

At a press conference held at the end of his meeting with Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, he also referred to his previous meetings with African leaders. He said that his talks with the leaders of SWAPO, Angola, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe had focussed on the delay in negotiations on Namibia and on South Africa's destabilization campaign against its black neighbors.

Perez de Cuellar also explained that it would be too soon for him to comment on any new initiative for the Namibian independence issue before the end of his African tour and before holding discussions in New York on its outcome with the representatives of South Africa and Great Britain.

Finally, Perez de Cuellar explained that the United Nations will not participate in the negotiations between Angola and South Africa on the presence of the Cuban troops in Angola, since according to him the presence of the Cuban troops in Angola is not a factor to be considered in the Namibian independence issue.

Mr Perez de Cuellar leaves Zimbabwe Sunday afternoon for Botswana, the the fifth leg of his 8-nation African tour.